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LITERATURE.

NOTICES OF NEW WORKS.

*The Deluge : a Drama in Twelve Scenes.* By JOHN EDMUND READE,  
Author of "Italy," and "Cain the Wanderer."

Having already had the pleasure of presenting our readers with a portion of this beautiful poem, it will be the less necessary for us to direct attention to it in the way we should otherwise have done, now that the work has been placed before the public.

Accustomed to view with a poet's eye the beauties and sublimities of nature, Mr. Reade scatters over his pages a rich assemblage of brilliant images, which not only illuminate the scenes in which they stand, but have a radiance peculiar to themselves, as in the following:—

"She doth resemble Nature when the Evening  
Throws her dim vesture round her; when the first  
Faint stars shed their wan rays upon her features,  
Half visionary in the fading distances;  
Meeting of sobered lights and gentlest hues,  
And twilight harmonies without a name!"

Again,

"Lo—how Nature answers thee!  
Look at the mountain girding thee, each peak  
Steeped in blue heaven: and around their sides,  
The insuperable woods from base to height,  
Rising over each as cloud o'er settling cloud;  
The woods—the solemn and majestic robes  
Nature assumes when seated on her throne."

The story is founded on a literal understanding of Genesis vi. 2, which, though before touched upon by able hands, is still, and probably ever will be, productive of magnificent conceptions. We could with pleasure follow the author through his powerful delineations of the passions, but rather choose to leave these to be explored by our readers, confining ourselves to some of the author's descriptive passages, in which he appears to us to be especially admirable. With what a master hand is the following portrait of the coming storm given in Scene X.!

"Lo, how the leaden-coloured Light doth gleam  
Upon those masses of enormous Clouds,  
And hides again behind them, darkly making  
Their dreadful aspect manifest; they bear

The shapes of hurrying and perturbed Forms ;  
 But silent all ! more useful, than if they  
 Proclaimed in thunder and in fire the ends  
 Of their tremendous ministry."

But we must make one more extract from the consummation of the terrific scene.

" 'Tis done—'tis done—  
 The Fountains of the Deep are broken up ;  
 The Waters are let loose upon the World !  
 [ *Astarte sinks down insensible.*  
 Behold the Hills are heaving like the waves  
 In their great agony, and from their caves  
 And shattered brows are hurling torrents forth,  
 That, like Eternity, in their fierce path,  
 Sweep all before them ; or cast down below  
 The toppling rocks with each convulsive throe ;  
 Now flashing forth volcanic streams—now gone,  
 As if extinguished ; ever and anon  
 The Winds awake the Lightnings in their wrath,  
 From their deep womb of Clouds, which hurtle forth  
 Their arrowy vengeance ; every vale and height—  
 Each mountain—depth—and crag—and yawning cave—  
 Blazes one moment in intensest Light ;  
 Swallowed, the next, in Darkness as a grave !  
 Through Earth's rent sides the waters of the Deep  
 O'er the low plains deliriously sweep,  
 In waves like rolling Mountains ; while the woods  
 And towers of men are borne before the floods ;  
 Or, crushed in one enormous mass, delay  
 Their course a moment—until heaved away—  
 Then swept like chaff before the whirlwind !—all  
 Sink in the Waters' universal pall.  
 Amidst the wreck the human race are lost ;  
 Appearing like the scattered ants : now tossed  
 Above—far struggling o'er the abyss profound :  
 Now in the overwhelming chaos drowned.  
 The Clouds in molten shapes are hurrying past :  
 While the gray vapours, wildly flying, cast  
 On the pale face of Earth obscured beneath,  
 A lurid light—as o'er the corpse of death !  
 The screaming of the Fowls of Air—the roar  
 Of the tame brutes that herd together cowed :  
 Even the Wind's howling sounds are heard no more,  
 Drowned in sky-cleaving thunders, where avowed  
 The Voice of God is heard—the lightning's ray  
 Showing his red hand manifest !"

After what we have said, need we add the expression of our conviction that Mr. Reade's "Deluge" will find a place in the library of every true lover of poetry? At the close of the volume is added "The Vision of the Ancient Kings," and some other pieces, each characterised by some peculiar touch of the author's genius.

*California. A History of Upper and Lower California, from their first Discovery to the present time, comprising an account of the Climate, Soil, Natural Productions, Agriculture, Commerce, &c. &c. A full View of the Missionary Establishments, and Condition of the Free and Domesticated Indians. With an Appendix relating to Steam Navigation in the Pacific. Illustrated with a new Map, Plans of the Harbours, and numerous Engravings. By ALEXANDER FORBES, Esq.*

We have of late been indebted to the publishers of this volume for several interesting and even important works upon distant and little known countries. One of these, which we noticed with the high praise it deserved, was Mrs. Postan's account of "Cutch."

The volume now before us is an excellent, honest, straightforward production, altogether free from inflation and fine writing. The author of it won our favour at starting, by the manly, sensible, and feeling letter to his brother, which stands as a dedication, and is one of the happiest things of the kind that we remember. Doctor Forbes may well be proud of such a brother.

The author lays down the geography of the country in the following passage.

"The extensive tract of country comprised under the general name of California, or the Californias, constitutes at present part of the Mexican Republic, and was formerly included in the Vice-royalty of New Spain. It extends along the border of the great Pacific Ocean, which bounds it on the west. The northern limit of the country actually settled by the Spaniards, is the bay of San Francisco, the entrance of which lies in  $37^{\circ} 48'$  N. lat.; but right of territory is claimed by the Mexican government, much further north; indeed, far beyond the Russian settlement of Bodega, which lies in lat.  $38^{\circ} 19'$ . The southern boundary is Cape San Lucas, the extremity of the peninsula of Lower California, which lies in N. lat.  $22^{\circ} 48'$ . The longitude of Cape San Lucas is  $109^{\circ} 47'$  W., and that of San Francisco  $122^{\circ} 27'$  W., consequently the direction of the coast is towards the north-west. This extensive country is bounded on the east by the Gulph of California, the Rio Colorado or Red River, and the Indian territory, which also limits it on the north. Since the division of the Mexican republic into federal states, the whole of California has been erected into what is termed a territory, which differs from a state in this, that it has not an elective governor or legislature, but is under the immediate control of the general government of Mexico, which appoints its governor, under the name of Commandant-general, and all the subordinate officers, civil and military. Although now constituting only one territory or province, in a political sense, this extensive region has always been considered as two distinct countries; and indeed, they are well entitled to be so considered, both from their natural differences and their civil history. The name of California was for nearly two hundred years exclusively applied to the great peninsula, which is now termed Old or Lower California, and which is arbitrarily bounded on the north by a line drawn from the top of the Gulf of California to the shore of the Pacific, considerably to the southward of the port of San Diego. After the discovery and settlement by the Spaniards of the country to the north of this peninsula, and which was also named California, as being part of the same race of people, the distinctive appellations of Upper and Lower, or New and Old California, became necessary, and have been universally applied;—the peninsula being termed *Lower*, as being in a lower degree of latitude, and of course *Old*, from its earlier settlement. When spoken of conjointly, the two countries have been, and still are, frequently designated The Californias, more especially by English navigators."

The principal object of the work is to give an account of the Upper Province, which is by far the more important of the two. On account, however, of the geographical and political relations which exist between the two provinces, and the intermingling of their history, the author has taken some notice of the Lower California also. All that he has written has been written on the spot, and that not upon a hasty visit, but after the

mature reflection afforded by a long residence in the countries of which he treats. His descriptions and accounts seem to us admirably complete ; and we have little hesitation in saying, that any person wishing for information, whether political, geographical, agricultural, or industrial, will find all the information he desires. Old or Lower California was discovered in the year 1534 by a squadron commanded by Grizalvie, but fitted out for the purpose of discovery by the great Fernando Cortez, the conqueror of Mexico. The expedition was singularly unsuccessful ; the natives were found fierce and courageous, and Ximenes, the pilot, together with twenty other Spaniards, was cut off in the Bay of La Paz. In the following year Cortez pursued the discovery himself, marching overland from Mexico, while three ships proceeded from Guatemala. He found the country, Lower California, excessively barren, and offering nowhere the gold mines of which he was in search. But Cortez explored the whole of the deep gulf which flows between the main and the peninsula, from Cape St. Lucas to the mouth of the Rio Colorado, or Red River. In the oldest Spanish charts the Gulf of California is called the Sea of Cortez. In 1537, Francisco Ulloa spent nearly a year in exploring the country, which he found everywhere extremely barren, the natives being rude, poor to the last degree, and completely naked. He saw the indigenous goat (argali.) Many subsequent expeditions were made by the Spaniards, who, however, neither derived profit from them, nor made any regular settlement in the country. In 1578, Sir Francis Drake, in the course of his marauding expedition into the Pacific, landed at Port San Francisco, in New or Upper California, and making some short journeys inland, he found the country beautiful and fertile, the climate healthy and pleasant. In fact, Drake was so well pleased with all he saw, that he christened the country New Albion, and took possession of it for his mistress, the virgin queen. Our author seems to think that Sir Francis Drake did this in ignorance of the fact that the country had been discovered before by the Spaniards ; but according to that sea law and sea divinity in which, according to Fuller, Drake was so great a proficient, the previous discovery would not matter two straws. Drake had gone to singe the king of Spain's beard, and to dispute that monarch's pretended right to all that the sun shone upon in the New World ; and then Drake pretended that he had gotten a renunciation of the sovereignty from the free and independent natives. These cessions of territories, so often described by the old navigators, are the most laughable things possible ; the present is especially so. The common head-dress of the natives of Upper California bore a rude resemblance in shape to a crown ; one of the natives took this head-dress from his ugly pate, and gave it to Sir Francis, who interpreted the gift into a renunciation or abdication of the country in favour of Queen Elizabeth ! The English, however, never claimed this rather questionable right, and left the natives to themselves and the Spaniards.

At the beginning of the seventeenth century, a report was suddenly spread that gold mines had been discovered in Lower California, and that there was a pearl fishery which produced the most valuable pearls in the world. A series of attempts at settlement was made between the years 1615 and 1694, but they all failed ; nor was any sensible progress visible until the year 1697, when the Jesuit fathers undertook the spiritual conquest of the country. We had occasion lately to refer to the wonderful operations of the Society of Jesus as colonisers and converters, and this particular part of Mr. Forbes's volume fully confirms our view of the efficacy of the means adopted by the fathers. We do not mean to insinuate that these means were all of a high or laudable character. Far from it. We only intend to say that the Jesuits reclaimed, or partially reclaimed, the native savages more rapidly than any other class of missionaries, and then kept them in what was a peaceful, happy condition,

as compared with that of the natives who had fallen under any other rule or European dominion. The history of the Jesuits' progress in California, as given briefly and spiritedly by our author, is one of the most curious and amusing of narratives. Some of the reverend fathers were admirably suited to the kind of work they undertook—were excellent pioneers to civilisation. Father Ugarte was a host in himself! His name ought to be recorded in more durable materials than marble and bronze. It was through him, and self-denying men like him, that

“ . . . . Charity on works of love would dwell  
In California's dolorous regions drear,”—

that agriculture and the other humanising arts were first introduced.

Early in the morning, after saying mass to them, and giving them a good breakfast, he led his Californians to work, in building a church, houses for himself and for their families, in clearing the ground for cultivation, in making trenches for the conveyance of water, holes for the planting of trees, or in digging and preparing the ground for sowing.

“ In the building part, Father Ugarte was master, overseer, carpenter, bricklayer, and labourer. For the Indians, though animated by his example, could neither by gifts or kind speeches be prevailed upon to shake off their innate sloth; and were sure to slacken if they did not see the father work harder than any of them; so that he was the first in fetching stones, treading the clay, mixing the sand, cutting, carrying, and barking the timber, removing the earth, and fixing materials. He was equally laborious in the other tasks; sometimes felling trees with his axe, sometimes with his spade in his hand digging up the earth, sometimes with an iron crow splitting rocks, sometimes disposing the water trenches, sometimes leading the beasts and cattle which he had procured for his mission to pasture and water; thus, by his own example, teaching the several kinds of labour. The Indians, whose narrow ideas and dulness could not at first enter into the utility of these fatigues, which at the same time deprived them of their customary freedom of roving among the forests, on a thousand occasions sufficiently tried his patience; coming late, nor caring to stir, running away, jeering him, and sometimes even forming combinations, and threatening death and destruction. All this was to be borne with unwearied patience, he having no other resource than affability and kindness, sometimes intermixed with gravity to strike respect; also taking care not to tire them, and suit himself to their weakness. \* \* \* \* \* In the succeeding year, Father Ugarte saw the happy fruits of his patience, having not only brought the Indians to the knowledge of the christian doctrine, and a decent attendance at divine worship, but likewise to a suitable life, without any of the disorders of their savage state. He inured their indocile sloth to labour, and he had plentiful harvests of wheat, maize, and other grain; he may be said to have surmounted impossibilities in watering and cultivating craggy and rugged grounds. He even made a considerable quantity of generous wine; of which, after supplying the missions in California, some was sent to New Spain in exchange for other goods. He likewise bred horses and sheep, and was, indeed, the purveyor-general of the missions, who, without the assistance of Father Ugarte's fortitude and industry, could not have subsisted; but no difficulty deterred him; and at last he brought his labours to their intended issue; and under a long course of obstructions and impediments, he saw his wishes happily accomplished. To give a full idea of the industry and zeal of this religious man, we shall add what he did in the following years for clothing his native Indians. His sheep, brought originally from the other coast, being sufficiently increased, that his Indians might make the best use of their wool, he determined to teach them the method of preparing, spinning, and weaving it for clothes. Accordingly, he himself made the distaffs, spinning-wheels, and looms; though, to forward and improve so beneficial a scheme, he sent to Tepic for one Antonio Moran, a master weaver, and allowed him a salary of five hundred dollars. Moran staid several years in California till he had sufficiently instructed the Indians in their trade, and some other handicrafts. \* \* \* \* Always in action and indefatigable; present everywhere, and doing everything, he attempted everything, and he accomplished everything; but his activity never shone so signally as in those beginnings where the difficulties seemed insurmountable; sometimes he was preaching, assisting, or admonishing, and attending the soldiers;

at other times he was searching for new spots of ground for villages and fields ; sometimes baptizing the children, and sometimes instructing the adults ; sometimes administering the sacraments to the sick, and performing the last offices to the dying. Sometimes he worked in the buildings, sometimes in the field, making water-trenches, plantations, and fields ; and sometimes he was mending the roads ; sometimes helping to get ready the barks for sea. In fine, he was continually labouring in every kind of employment, and the greatest fatigue he always took upon himself."

At times the fathers were exposed to all the horrors of Indian warfare, and obliged to fight like soldiers. The following striking case, which is exceedingly well related, occurred some time after Ugarte's death :—

" More than a thousand Indians collected from different places, and divided themselves into two parties ; one to attack the mission, and the other the Presidio where the soldiers were quartered. They intended to set fire to both at the same time, and to kill all the people ; on which wicked design they set out armed with bows and arrows, spears and clubs. They arrived at the bed of the river on the night of the 4th of November, whence the two divisions took their respective routes ; the one for the Presidio, and the other for the mission. The party destined for the latter arrived at the huts of the converts without being observed ; putting some Indians as guards to prevent the inmates from going out or giving any alarm, and threatening them with death if they attempted to do so. Some then proceeded to the church and sacristy, for the purpose of robbing the ornaments, vestments, and whatever else they might find ; while others laid hold of lights, and endeavoured to set the quarters of the soldiers on fire. These, who consisted only of a corporal and three men, were soon awakened by the horrid yells of the Indians, and immediately armed themselves, the Indians having already begun to discharge their arrows. The Father Vincent joined the soldiers, together with two boys. The Father Lewis, who slept in a separate apartment, on hearing the noise went towards the Indians, and on approaching them made use of the usual salutation, ' Amar a Dios, Teijos,' (' Love God, my children,') when, observing it was the father, they laid hold of him as a wolf would lay hold of a lamb, and carried him to the side of the rivulet. There they tore off his holy habit, commenced giving him blows with their clubs, and discharged innumerable arrows at him. Not contented with taking away his life with so much fury, they beat and cut to pieces his face, head, and the whole of his body, so that from head to foot nothing remained whole, except his consecrated hands, which were found entire in the place where he was murdered.

" Meanwhile others of the Indians proceeded to the place where two carpenters and the blacksmith were sleeping, and who were awakened by the noise. The blacksmith ran out with his sword in hand, but was immediately shot dead with an arrow ; one of the carpenters followed with a loaded musket, and shot some of the Indians, who were so much intimidated that he was allowed to join the soldiers ; the other carpenter, who was ill, was killed in bed by an arrow. The chief body of the Indians now engaged the soldiers, who made such good use of their firearms by killing some and wounding others, that the Indians began to waver ; but they at last set fire to the quarters of the Spaniards, which was only of wood, and who, in order to avoid being roasted alive, valiantly sallied forth and took possession of another small hut which had served for a kitchen, and which was constructed of dried bricks. The walls, however, were little more than a yard in height, and only covered with branches of trees and leaves to keep out the sun. They defended themselves by keeping up a continual fire upon the multitude, who, however, annoyed them much with their arrows and wooden spears, more particularly at one side of the hut, which was without a wall. Seeing the damage that by this means they were suffering, the soldiers resolved to take out of the house that was on fire, some bales to fill up the open part of the kitchen. In doing this, two of them were wounded and disabled from giving any more assistance, but they succeeded in fetching the bales and filling up the breach with them. There then only remained the corporal, the soldier, the carpenter, and the Father Vincente. The corporal, who was of great valour, and a good marksman, ordered that the others should load and prime the muskets, he only firing them off, by which method he killed or wounded as many as approached him. The Indians now seeing that their arrows were of no avail, owing to the defence of the walls and bales, set fire to the covering of the kitchen ; but as the materials were very slight, the corporal and his companions were still enabled to keep their position. They were greatly afraid lest their powder should be set on fire ; and this would

have been the case if Father Vincente had not taken the precaution to cover it over with the skirt of his habit, which he did in disregard of the risk he ran of being blown up. The Indians, finding that this mode of attack did not oblige their opponents to leave their fort, commenced throwing in burning fagots and stones, by which Father Vincente was wounded, but not very dangerously. The whole night passed in this manner, till on the rising of the sun the Indians gave up the contest, and retired, carrying off all their killed and wounded. The whole of the defenders of the kitchen fort were wounded, the corporal concealing his injuries until the Indians had retired, in order to avoid discouraging his companions.'

"I have given the description of this contest at full length, and in the language of the Franciscan historian, in order to show that a battle, when the forces on one side only consisted of three soldiers, commanded by a corporal, may be made nearly as much of on paper as when mighty armies meet. The account of the defence of the kitchen fort is given with as much gravity and circumstantiality, as if the narrative were of one of Napoleon's victories; and, it must be confessed, that the issue was as important to the individuals engaged in this Lilliputian combat, as was the result of Austerlitz or Lodi to their victor. It is also worthy of record, as being the most serious attempt to obstruct the Spanish missionaries in their *spiritual conquest* of California; and it may in some degree account for the apparently miraculous conquests of the Spaniards in Mexico and Peru in former times, by proving how superior the European, with his musket and his gunpowder, is to the feeble and unskilful Indian with his bow and arrow."

#### Mr. Forbes thus describes the Missiones or Missions.

"THE MISSIONS.—These establishments are all formed on the same plan, and consequently greatly resemble each other. They vary, however, according to their extent, standing, and population, and also according to the individual character of the directing fathers for the time being. Each mission is governed by one or more missionaries, all friars of the order San Francisco. One of these is styled *prefect*, and not president, as was formerly the case. Through him is (or was) carried on all the public correspondence with the government of Mexico; but he has no power superior to the others, and each may be said to be absolute in his own mission. Each mission has allotted to it, in the first instance, a tract of land of about fifteen miles square, which is generally fertile and well suited for husbandry. This land is set apart for the general uses of the mission, part being cultivated, and part left in its natural condition, and occupied as grazing ground. The buildings of the mission are, like the Presidios, all on the same general plan, but are varied according to the locality and number of the inhabitants. Most of the missionary villages or residences are surrounded by a high wall enclosing the whole; others have no such protection, but consist of open rows of streets of little huts built of bricks: some of these are tiled and whitewashed, and look neat and comfortable; others are dirty and in disrepair, and in every way uncomfortable. In the mission of Santa Clara, which in several respects excels the others, the houses of the Indians form five rows or streets, which, compared with the old straw huts, must be considered really comfortable; and this is the greatest improvement that has taken place in the domestic civilization of these people at the missions. The buildings are generally built in the form of a square, or part of a square, the church usually forming a portion of the elevation. The apartments of the fathers, which are often spacious, the granaries, and workshops, compose the remainder. The Indian population generally live in huts at about two hundred yards distant from the principal edifices; these huts are sometimes made of adobes, but the Indians are often left to raise them on their own plan, viz. of rough poles erected into a conical figure, of about four yards in circumference at the base, covered with dry grass, and a small aperture for the entrance. When the huts decay, they set them on fire, and erect new ones, which is only the work of a day. In these huts the married part of the community live, the unmarried of both sexes being, each sex separate, in large barn-like apartments, where they work under strict superiors: the storehouses and workshops, at some of the larger missions, are of great extent and variety. There may be seen a place for melting tallow, one for making soap, workshops for smiths, carpenters, &c., storehouses for the articles manufactured, and the produce of the farms, viz. stores for tallow, soap, butter, salt, wool, hides, wheat, peas, beans, &c. &c. Four or five soldiers have their residence a few yards further off, and are meant to watch the Indians, and to keep order; but they are generally lazy, idle fellows, and often give the missionary more trouble than all his Indians, and instead of rendering assistance increase his troubles. But

in all Spanish countries nothing can possibly be done without soldiers, and the idea of having any public establishment without a guard of soldiers would appear quite ridiculous. The church is, of course, the main object of attraction at all the missions, and is often gaudily decorated. In some of the missions, where there is good building-stone in the vicinity, the external appearance of the sacred building is not unseemly; in other missions, the exterior is very rude. In all of them the interior is richer than the outside promises. In several there are pictures, and the subject of these is generally representations of heaven or hell, glaringly coloured, purposely to strike the rude senses of the Indians. Perouse says that the picture of hell in the church of San Carlos has, in this way, done incalculable service in promoting conversion; and well remarks, that the Protestant mode of worship, which forbids images and pompous ceremonies, could not make any progress among these people. He is of opinion that the picture of Paradise, in the same church, has excited comparatively little effect, on account of its tameness; but Langendorff tells of wonders in this way wrought by a figure of the Virgin, represented as springing from the coronal of leaves of the *Agave Americana*, or great American aloe, instead of the ordinary stem! The priests also take care to be provided with rich dresses for the same purpose of inspiring awe."

The Appendix to this volume, treating of the steam navigation of the Pacific, is highly important.

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*Domestic Scenes in Russia; in a Series of Letters, describing a Year's Residence in that Country, chiefly in the Interior.* By the Rev. R. LISTER VENABLES, M.A.

The author of this light gossiping volume informs us that he is nearly connected by marriage with several Russian families; that he accompanied his wife into that country in the summer of 1837, for the purpose of visiting her relations, among whom they spent a whole year, either in private houses in the interior of Russia, or in habits of constant intercourse at St. Petersburg. His opportunities were thus unquestionable of obtaining a better insight into the domestic life of a certain class of the Czar's subjects, than has been usually transmitted to us by hasty travellers, who, equally now as in the days of George Primrose, are accustomed to see a great deal more of the outsides of houses abroad than of the insides.

Leaving the court, the capital, the army, the public institutions, and the show places of the country, which have been so incessantly described, Mr. Venables takes us with him into the scenes of private life, describing with clearness and simplicity the national customs and domestic habits of the Russians.

We have risen from the perusal of his pleasant little volume with the conviction that we know a great deal more about what is best worth knowing than we did when we sat down to it. Here and there we may suspect a little partial colouring, which is natural and excusable in his circumstances, but we should be disposed to place the greatest confidence in the general correctness of his pictures. He passed a considerable time as a visiter in a Russian country-house at Krasnac, in the province or government of Tver, about four hundred miles south of Petersburgh.

We select some interesting passages from this part of the work.

"COUNTRY VISITS IN RUSSIA.

"The ordinary routine of life which I have described, has been varied now and then by an occasional visit. The system of country visiting in Russia is carried on upon the hospitable principle, that a friend is always welcome. The distances are so great, that morning calls are of course in general out of the question, and excepting on particular occasions, such as a fête, invitations are rare. Neighbours sometimes send over to announce their intention, if it is agreeable to you, of coming to dine, or to spend a night or two at your house, but there being no cross-posts between country places, the most usual thing is, that your guests arrive unexpectedly

a little before the ordinary dinner-hour. This system has many inconveniences, though it is unavoidable in Russia, where people frequently cannot send beforehand to prepare you for their visit, and where, moreover, they do not like to pledge themselves to go twenty or five-and-twenty miles, over bad roads, to dine and return at night, with the chance that the day fixed for the visit may prove rainy or disagreeable. These unexpected visits are considered highly complimentary, though, from the quantity of servants and horses with which Russians travel, the numbers to be provided for *impromptu* are sometimes rather formidable. For instance, on one occasion, when three parties chanced to arrive here to dine and spend a day or two unannounced beforehand, though the guests themselves amounted only to five or six, they brought with them ten servants and sixteen carriage-horses. A single man seldom moves with less than two servants and four horses, and the Russian country-house has no neighbouring inn to which the latter may be inhospitably consigned. The etiquette of visiting, in general, is altogether different in this country and in England. With us, it is always considered the part of the person of higher rank, or of older standing in a society, to make the first advances in forming an acquaintance; whereas, in Russia, it rests with the new comer to select his society among those to whom he is introduced, and he calls upon those whom he desires to know. I think, without prejudice, that the English custom is decidedly the better and more reasonable of the two, since here a stranger, and especially a foreigner, is often at a loss to decide whether his visit will be considered an intrusion, or his omission to pay it an act of ill-breeding.

" VILLAGE FETE—HAPPINESS OF SERFS.

" We reached Troitska about one o'clock, and found in front of a house a long row of tables, at which all the peasants, with their wives and children, had just finished dining; they had been well provided with beer, followed by a glass or two of spirits each; and they were now assembled round the door of the house, shouting and singing with all their might. On the steps of the house were large baskets of gingerbread, which the entertainer and his guests were throwing in every direction among the crowd, and the peasants, men and women, boys and girls, were scrambling for it with the utmost eagerness. After the scrambling was over, we were entertained by a national dance, the execution of which had no merit to boast, especially as some of the performers were drunk; the music was a monotonous ditty, sung, or rather screeched at the pitch of their voices, by the performers themselves. We soon afterwards sat down to dinner, and the singing was continued under the windows by four or five pair of vigorous female lungs during the whole time that we were at table. The swing, that most necessary appendage to all Russian festivities, which is seen in every village and in every gentleman's garden, was of course kept in full play. After dinner we found that the peasants had apparently got tired of amusing themselves, and had gone home to their houses. About six o'clock we drove to see a neighbouring gentleman's garden, which was somewhat celebrated in the country: the proprietor received us most civilly, and showed us over his garden, which was his hobby; it was large and well kept, but for the most part dull and sombre, being laid out chiefly in straight walks, entirely shaded over, but which, however, were old and of considerable size, so as to impart a degree of respectability to the place. The garden was decorated by large formally-shaped ponds; at one end was a stew filled with pike, and close by a tawdry summer-house of painted wood. We returned to Troitska to tea, and drove home in the cool of the evening, or rather in the dark. \* \* \* \* \* The first impression produced by the merriment of the peasants at their village fête may be a conviction of the happiness of the people, and of their readiness to be pleased and amused. It does not follow, however, because the Russian dances and sings, that he is to be considered happy for his station. On the contrary, it surely is a melancholy spectacle, and even degrading to human nature, to see bearded men scrambling like monkeys for gingerbread, and delighting in the sports of children. These people undoubtedly were not oppressed; they were under a kind and considerate master, and they wanted for none of the necessities of life; they therefore, as individuals, were not to be pitied, and, knowing no better, were probably contented with their lot; but the chain of slavery was on their minds, as it is on the minds of the Russian peasantry at large. They know that they can do nothing to change or improve their condition, and therefore they have no stimulus or excitement to energy. They have no habit of acting or deciding for themselves, and are, in fact, mere grown-up children, equally thoughtless and improvident; as such, indeed, they are treated by law and custom. With little in the world to hope

or fear, since to rise is out of the question ; and to sink impossible ; and with a naturally easy and cheerful disposition, they sing, and dance, and play, like children on a holiday, with a light-hearted merriment which is not happiness ; the reckless hilarity of intoxication, forgetful of yesterday and careless of to-morrow, not the sober satisfaction of rational contentment. While the vast extent of Russia, and her thinly scattered population, continue to render food, shelter, and clothing cheap and abundant, the peasant may continue to laugh and dance in his fetters, careless or unconscious of his degraded position ; but should the pressing evils of want or scarcity arise to disturb his thoughtless gaiety and empty merriment, he will become a morose, discontented slave ; his eyes will be opened to a sense of his condition, and woe to that generation, both of lord and serf, in which the light shall break forth ; for unless the country is far more generally civilised and enlightened than at present, a revolution must commence in bloodshed, and end in anarchy ; the elements of true liberty are not to be found as yet in Russia."

Next follows an account of

#### A RUSSIAN CARNIVAL IN THE PROVINCES.

" We have now arrived nearly at the conclusion of the carnival, which ends to-morrow (Sunday) at midnight, since Lent in the Greek church begins not on Ash Wednesday, but on the Monday before. Indeed, the carnival-week is, strictly speaking, a commencement of the fast, or a sort of preparation for it ; for the use of meat is forbidden at this time, though eggs, milk, and butter are allowed. This, however, is a distinction which is seldom or never observed by the higher classes, who generally content themselves with abstaining from animal food during a single week of Lent, usually the first or last. The traders and peasants are, as I have already told you, extremely rigid in observing this, and all other rules of the church. One of the great amusements of the carnival is eating *bleenies* ; a bleeny being a kind of cake, which is somewhat like an English crumpet, and is eaten with butter. This luxury was, I presume, originally invented as a compensation for the loss of meat during the extra week of fast, which the Greek church imposed on its members. The carnival is the season in which ice-hills are chiefly in request in Russia, but I am sorry to say none have been erected here this winter, and the only specimen I have seen is a very small one made in the courtyard of a private house for the amusement of the children. For the three last days, as well as on Sunday, there have been grand promenades in the principal street, at which nearly all the inhabitants of the town have appeared parading up and down in sledges of every description, at a foot-pace, in two rows, like the lines of carriages in Hyde Park on a Sunday, when Hyde Park was in its glory. Order is maintained by a number of policemen, aided by a few mounted gens-d'armes, and the centre of the street is reserved for sledges with poles instead of shafts, since these are dangerous in the lines, as, in the case of a sudden stoppage, the point of the pole may run against the back of the person in the sledge next before. We have joined the procession more than once with a large party in a sledge holding ten or twelve people, and drawn by four horses, and our pole procuring us admission to the open centre-space, we have been able to drive rapidly up and down the street, so as to pass in review the two lines of sledges on either side. The weather during the whole week has been most beautiful—a hard frost and a bright sun. The Tamboff promenaders, however, instead of enjoying the fine and pleasant portion of the day, do not begin to appear till about four o'clock, when the sun is not very far from the horizon. By about five o'clock the street is crowded, and the sledgers continue patiently to glide up and down till nearly seven. This inconvenient fashion arises, I presume, from the Russian habit of wasting two or three hours of daylight in sleeping after an early dinner. The lower orders consider it most unlucky not to appear in a sledge at the promenade, at least once during the carnival, thinking, as I am told, that it helps them on their way to heaven ; the forfeiture of which, it is also said, they fear to risk, if they omit to get drunk in the course of the week. Be this as it may, there are few among them who do not scrupulously avoid all difficulty on this score, and during the two last days happy is the master who has a cook sober enough to dress his dinner, or a servant steady enough to place it on the table. On Thursday there was a public assembly, the last ball of the season, and an extremely dull affair. Yesterday there was a masquerade for the servants, small traders, &c. We went with some friends into the gallery to witness the amusement, and the decorum, and even politeness, which prevailed was quite as great as among the more fashionable society which

had appeared in the same room the night before. The ladies' maids were dressed in imitation of their mistresses, and, for the most part, wore neither mask nor fancy dress. The men were, however, equipped in general in various grotesque costumes, being disguised by veils placed instead of masks, to hide their features; these were, however, removed in general as the wearers became hot with dancing. Waltzes, quadrilles, polonaises, were executed with tolerable success; but the national dance, which was frequently repeated, was the great attraction of the evening. This is performed by two persons at a time, and is a sort of pantomime representing courtship. The partners are placed opposite to one another, about seven or eight feet apart; the gentleman first advances with many graceful and winning steps to his fair *vis-à-vis*, who remains in her place; he then figures in various attractive attitudes before her, but in vain, as she turns brusquely round and rejects him, upon which he finally retires. It is now the lady's turn to make similar advances, which, of course, are received in the same manner, with demonstrations of scorn. This alternate advance and retreat is carried on for some time; the talent of the performers consisting in the coquetry displayed on both sides, and the grace and variety of their movements; at last the lady, instead of rejecting her suitor, accepts his attentions, and deigns to receive the kiss which concludes the dance."

We had marked some other passages for extract, but we must refer the reader to the pleasant, plain-speaking volume itself, which we can, and do, very cordially recommend.

*The Poetical Works of Percy Bysshe Shelley.* Edited by Mrs. SHELLEY.

This is a very neat and convenient edition of the works of a real poet, who has been gradually rising in the estimation of his countrymen. We have always looked upon Shelley as one having more of the soul of poetry than any of his contemporaries; or if we have made an exception, it has been a single and a doubting one. Others indeed have written greater or more finished poems; but Shelley, who perished, from the upsetting of a vile boat, in the twenty-ninth year of his age, had not poured out a tithe of the poetry that was in him, and had not had time to attain to that fixed philosophy which is essential to the highest kinds of production. Beautiful and masterly as are some of his poems—exquisite as are many passages in them—we look upon them as nothing, compared to what he might, and would have written, if his life had been lengthened. Perhaps, however, we should here be inclined to make an exception in favour of his "Cenci," an unsurpassable composition—a wondrous, and, in its way, we think, an all but perfect one.

The first poem in the present collection is the "Queen Mab," which the affectionate and reverential editor has thought fit to curtail of some of its wildest passages. We question whether this has been done wisely. We should like to have the whole, as presenting a strange, *early* picture of a strange mind.

"Shelley was eighteen years of age when 'Queen Mab' was written; he never published it. When he wrote it, he had come to the decision that he was too young to be a 'judge of controversies'; and he was desirous of acquiring 'that sobriety of spirit which is the characteristic of true heroism.' But he never doubted the truth or utility of his opinions; and in printing and privately distributing 'Queen Mab,' he believed that he should further their dissemination, without occasioning the mischief either to others or himself that might arise from publication. The poem has since been frequently reprinted; and it is too well known, and the poetry is too beautiful, to allow of its being omitted, although it is doubtful whether he would himself have admitted it into a collection of his works. His severe classical taste, refined by the constant study of the Greek poets, might have discovered defects that escape the ordinary reader; and the change his opinions underwent in many points, would

have prevented him from putting forth the speculations of his boyish days. . . . . Some years after, when in Italy, a bookseller published an edition of 'Queen Mab' as it originally stood. Shelley was hastily written to by his friends, under the idea that, deeply injurious as the mere distribution of the poem had proved, the publication might awaken fresh persecutions. At the suggestion of these friends he wrote a letter on the subject, printed in 'The Examiner' newspaper, with which I close this history of his earliest work.

"SIR,—Having heard that a poem, entitled 'Queen Mab,' has been surreptitiously published in London, and that legal proceedings have been instituted against the publisher, I request the favour of your insertion of the following explanation of the affair as it relates to me. A poem, entitled 'Queen Mab,' was written by me, at the age of eighteen, I dare say in a sufficiently intemperate spirit; but even then not intended for publication, and a few copies only were struck off, to be distributed among my personal friends. I have not seen this production for several years; I doubt not but that it is perfectly worthless in point of literary composition; and that in all that concerns moral and political speculation, as well as in the subtler discriminations of metaphysical and religious doctrine, it is still more crude and immature. I am a devoted enemy to religious, political, and domestic oppression; and I regret this publication not so much from literary vanity, as because I fear it is better fitted to injure than to serve the sacred cause of freedom. I have directed my solicitor to apply to Chancery for an injunction to restrain the sale, but after the precedent of Mr. Southey's 'Wat Tyler,' (a poem written, I believe, at the same age, and with the same unreflecting enthusiasm,) with little hope of success. Whilst I exonerate myself from all share in divulged opinions hostile to existing sanctions, under the form, whatever it may be, which they assume in this poem, it is scarcely necessary for me to protest against the system of inculcating the truth of Christianity, or the excellence of monarchy, however true or however excellent they may be, by such equivocal arguments as confiscation, and imprisonment, and invective and slander, and the insolent violation of the most sacred ties of nature and society."

In the next passage Mrs Shelley shows the unhappy life led by the poet at school and college, and the state of abandonment into which he fell when a mere stripling.

"Refusing to sag at Eton, he was treated with revolting cruelty by masters and boys; this roused, instead of taming, his spirit, and he rejected the duty of obedience, when it was enforced by menaces and punishment. To aversion to the society of his fellow-creatures—such as he found them when collected together into societies, where one egged on the other to acts of tyranny—was joined the deepest sympathy and compassion; while the attachment he felt for individuals, and the admiration with which he regarded their powers and their virtues, led him to entertain a high opinion of the perfectibility of human nature, and he believed that all could reach the highest grade of moral improvement, did not the customs and prejudices of society foster evil passions and excuse evil actions. The oppression which, trembling at every nerve, yet resolute to heroism, it was his ill fortune to encounter at school and at college, led him to dissent in many things from those whose arguments were blows, whose faith appeared to engender blame and execration. 'During my existence,' he wrote to a friend in 1812, 'I have incessantly speculated, thought, and read.' His readings were not always well chosen; among them were the works of the French philosophers; as far as metaphysical argument went, he temporarily became a convert. At the same time, it was the cardinal article of his faith, that if men were but taught and induced to treat their fellows with love, charity, and equal rights, this earth would realise Paradise. He looked upon religion as it professed, and above all, practised, as hostile, instead of friendly, to the cultivation of those virtues, which would make men brothers. Can this be wondered at? At the age of seventeen, fragile in health and frame, of the purest habits in morals, full of devoted generosity and universal kindness, glowing with ardour to attain wisdom, resolved at every personal sacrifice to do right, burning with a desire for affection and sympathy,—he was treated as a reprobate, cast forth as a criminal. The cause was, that he was sincere, that he believed the opinions which he entertained to be true, and he loved truth with a martyr's love: he was ready to sacrifice station, and fortune, and his dearest affections, at its shrine. The sacrifice was demanded from, and made by, a youth of seventeen. It is a singular

fact in the history of society in the civilised nations of modern times, that no false step is so irretrievable as one made in early youth. Older men, it is true, when they oppose their fellows, and transgress ordinary rules, carry a certain prudence or hypocrisy as a shield along with them. But youth is rash; nor can it imagine, while asserting what it believes to be true, and doing what it believes to be perfectly right, that it should be denounced as vicious, and pursued as criminal."

The sufferings of Shelley, both morally and physically, were great.

" This is neither the time nor place to speak of the misfortunes that chequered his life. It will be sufficient to say, that in all he did, he, at the time of doing it, believed himself justified in his conscience; while the various ills of poverty and loss of friends brought home to him the sad realities of life. \* \* \* \* In the spring of 1815, an eminent physician pronounced that he was dying rapidly of consumption; abscesses were formed on his lungs, and he suffered acute spasms. Suddenly, a complete change took place; and though through life he was a martyr to pain and debility, every symptom of pulmonary disease vanished. His nerves, which nature had formed sensitive to an unexampled degree, were rendered still more susceptible by the state of his health. As soon as the peace of 1814 had opened the continent, he went abroad. He visited some of the more magnificent scenes of Switzerland, and returned to England from Lucerne by the Reuss and the Rhine. This river navigation enchanted him. In his favourite poem of 'Thalaba,' his imagination had been excited by a description of such a voyage. In the summer of 1815, after a tour along the southern coast of Devonshire, and a visit to Clifton, he rented a house on Bishopgate Heath, on the borders of Windsor Forest, where he enjoyed several months of comparative health and tranquil happiness. The later summer months were warm and dry.

" Accompanied by a few friends, he visited the sources of the Thames, making the voyage in a wherry from Windsor to Cricklade. His beautiful stanzas in the churchyard of Lechlade were written on that occasion. 'Alastor' was composed on his return. He spent his days under the oak shades of Windsor Great Park; and the magnificent woodland was a fitting study to inspire the various descriptions of forest scenery we find in the poem."

It is in this manner—in giving an account of the poems—that Mrs. Shelley gives us glimpses of the poet's life. She has not attempted anything like a regular memoir; but most of these notes which come between the different poems are of a deep interest. We can ourselves vouch for the perfect accuracy and truthfulness of the following description.

" The qualities that struck any one newly introduced to Shelley were, first, a gentle and cordial goodness that animated his intercourse with warm affection and helpful sympathy; the other, the eagerness and ardour with which he was attached to the cause of human happiness and improvement. To defecate life of its misery and its evil was the ruling passion of his soul: he dedicated to it every pulsation of his heart. He looked on political freedom as the direct agent to effect the happiness of mankind; and thus any new-sprung hope of liberty inspired a joy and an exultation more intense and wild than he could have felt for any personal advantage."

Shortly after writing "Alastor, or the Spirit of Solitude," Shelley commenced "The Revolt of Islam," a longer poem, which contains long passages of marvellous beauty and magnificence. The fight in Canto I. between the eagle and serpent is, in our humble opinion, equal, if not superior, to anything of the kind to be found either in Ariosto or Spencer. Let all our readers make haste to study it. The poem was written at Marlow.

" During the year 1817, we were established at Marlow, in Buckinghamshire. Shelley's choice of abode was fixed chiefly by the town being at no great distance from London, and its neighbourhood to the Thames. The poem was written in his boat, as it floated under the beech groves of Bisham, or during wanderings in the neighbouring country, which is distinguished for peculiar beauty. The chalk hills break into cliffs that overhang the Thames, or form valleys clothed with beech; the wilder portion of the country is rendered beautiful by exuberant vegetation; and the

cultivated part is peculiarly fertile. With all this wealth of nature, which, either in the form of gentlemen's parks or soil dedicated to agriculture, flourishes around, Marlow was inhabited (I hope it is altered now) by a very poor population. The women are lace-makers, and lose their health by sedentary labour; for which they were very ill paid. The poor-laws ground to the dust not only the paupers, but those who had risen just above that state, and were obliged to pay poor-rates. The changes produced by peace following a long war, and a bad harvest, brought with them the most heart-rending evils to the poor. Shelley afforded what alleviation he could. In the winter, while bringing out his poem, he had a severe attack of ophthalmia, caught while visiting the poor cottages. I mention these things,—for this minute and active sympathy with his fellow-creatures gives a thousand-fold interest to his speculations, and stamps with reality his pleadings for the human race."

We are old enough to remember the outcry that was raised on the first appearance of the "Revolt of Islam." Its opinions—or at least some part of them—were indeed bold and uncompromising; and there were many minds that could be startled by its daring speculations in philosophy, that were altogether incapable of feeling its beauty as a poem. Nay, we remember, that not a few maintained, with a great blasting of trumpets, that the poetry was as bad as the philosophy, and *that*, in their eyes, was so detestably bad as to entitle its author to a hot berth in Pandemonium.

Well! since those days we have made some progress in taste, and in toleration also. It would now be fool-hardy of any man to question Shelley's high poetical genius, and generally people will judge charitably of what they may consider wrong in the philosophy of a most charitable, noble-hearted young man. We have no doubt whatever that this edition will be widely purchased and read.

### *Knight's Pictorial Edition of Shakspere. Part III. Romeo and Juliet.*

The labours of the editor are more conspicuously valuable and useful in this part than in the two preceding plays. They have enabled him indeed to give to the world, almost for the first time, a correct edition of this most exquisite play, a copy such as Shakspere, after careful revision, left it for the admiration of all ages. From Pope downwards, editors have been giving us a mongrel copy.

Romeo and Juliet was first printed in the year 1597; a copy of this edition is rare and dear enough to be classed among *libri rarissimi*, but Steevens reprinted it in his not very popular collection of twenty of the plays of Shakspere. The second edition of Romeo and Juliet, with many corrections, augmentations, and amendments, was printed in 1599. This edition is also rare, but the editor has had the advantage of using a copy in the British Museum. The subsequent original editions are a quarto without date; a quarto in 1607; a quarto in 1609; and the well-known folio of 1623. All these editions are founded upon the quarto of 1599—that is, upon the edition corrected by Shakspere himself—from which they differ very slightly.

"We have taken," says the editor, "the folio of 1623 as the basis of our text, indicating the differences between that text and the quartos subsequent to that of 1597, whenever any occur. But we have not attempted to make up a text, as was done by Pope, and subsequently by Steevens, out of the amended quarto of 1599 and the original of 1597. In some instances, indeed, the quarto of 1597 is of importance in the formation of a text, for the correction of typographical errors, which have run through the subsequent editions. Whenever our text differs from that commonly received, we state the difference and the reasons for that difference. Our general reasons for founding the text upon the folio of 1623, which is, in truth, to found it upon the quarto of 1599, are as follows:—

"The quarto of 1599 was declared to be 'newly corrected, augmented, and amended.' There can be no doubt whatever that the corrections, augmentations, and emendations, were those of the author. There are typographical errors in this edition, and in all the editions, and occasional confusions of the metrical arrangement, which render it more than probable that Shakspere did not see the proofs of his printed works. But that the copy, both of the first edition and the second, was derived from him, is, to our minds, perfectly certain. We know of nothing in literary history more curious or more instructive than the example of minute attention, as well as consummate skill, exhibited by Shakspere, in correcting, augmenting, and amending the first copy of this play. We would ask, then, upon what canon of criticism can an editor be justified in foisting into a copy so corrected, passages of the original copy, which the natural judgment of the author had rejected? Essentially the question ought not to be determined by any arbitrament whatever other than the judgment of the author. Even if his correctness did not appear, in every case, to be improvements, we should be still bound to receive them with respect and deference. We would not, indeed, attempt to establish it as a rule implicitly to be followed, that an author's last corrections are to be invariably adopted; for, as in the case of Cowper's Homer, and Tasso's Jerusalem, the corrections which these poets made in their first productions, when their faculties were in a great degree clouded and worn out, are properly considered as not entitled to supersede what they produced in brighter and happier hours. Mr. Southey admirably stated his reason for this in the advertisement to his edition of Cowper's Homer. But in the case of Shakspere's Romeo and Juliet, the corrections and augmentations were made by him at that epoch of his life when he exhibited 'all the graces and facilities of a genius in full possession and habitual exercise of power.'

"The augmentations, with one or two trifling exceptions, are amongst the most masterly passages in the whole play, and include many of the lines that are invariably turned to, as some of the highest examples of poetical beauty. These augmentations, further, are so large in their amount, that, in Steevens's reprint, the first edition occupies only *seventy-three* pages; while the edition of 1609, in the same volume, printed in the same type as the first edition, occupies *ninety-nine* pages. The corrections are made with such exceeding judgment, such marvellous tact, that of themselves they completely overthrow the theory, so long submitted to, that Shakspere was a careless writer. We have furnished abundant evidence of this in our first notes, in which we have exhibited some of the more remarkable of the amended passages, and have indicated the most important augmentations. Such being the case, we consider ourselves justified in treating the labour of Steevens and other editors, in making a patchwork text out of the author's first and second copies, as utterly worthless; and we have, therefore, in nearly every instance, rejected the passages from the first copy, which these editors, to use their own words, have *recovered* to swell out the second copy, as mere surplusage which the author had himself rejected. We have, of course, indicated these changes from the commonly received text." . . . . .

The old editors and commentators were, taken collectively, a wrong-headed, pedantic crew, with little brains and less heart; but in some respects they were good pioneers; they were laborious and pains-taking men, not without some of the learning essential to the task—that is, some few of them, like Malone. The present editor is too just, and too well acquainted with the nature, extent, and divisibility of literary labour, to deny them their meed of praise.

"We have no wish," he says, "to depreciate the labours of our predecessors." We thoroughly agree with Southey, that, "though in their cumbrous annotations, the last labourer always added more rubbish to the heaps which his predecessors had accumulated, they did good service by directing attention to our earlier literature."<sup>†</sup> We most readily acknowledge our own particular obligations to them; for, unless they had collected a great mass of materials, the present edition could not have been undertaken."

In the editor's illustrations of the play, there is a great deal that is new and tasteful. We will just quote one little passage from them, which has

\* Coleridge's Literary Remains.

† Life of Cowper, vol. ii. p. 178.

greatly pleased us. Everybody, of course, remembers the soul-melting verses in Juliet's speech which have more than the nightingale's music.

"Act iii. Scene v.—'Nightly she sings on yon pomegranate tree.'"

In the description of the garden in Chaucer's translation of the "Romaunt of the Rose," the pomegranate is first mentioned among the fruit trees:

"There were (and that wot I full well)  
Of pomegranates a full great deal."

"The 'orchard of pomegranates with pleasant fruits' was one of the beautiful objects described by Solomon in his Canticles. Amongst the fruit-bearing trees, the pomegranate is in some respects the most beautiful; and, therefore, in the south of Europe and in the East it has become the chief ornament of the garden. But where did Shakspere find that the nightingale haunted the pomegranate tree, pouring forth her song from the same bough, week after week? Doubtless in some of the old travels with which he was familiar. Chaucer puts his nightingale 'in a fresh green laurel tree'; but the preference of the nightingale for pomegranate is unquestionable. 'The nightingale sings from the pomegranate groves in the daytime,' says Russell, in his account of Aleppo. \* \* \* \* \* In the truth of details such as these, the genius of Shakspere is as much exhibited as in his wonderful powers of generalisation."

The artists have done their part admirably. The engravings are varied and beautiful, but we have not left ourselves room to describe them.

*The Lady and the Saints. In three Cantos. With Ten Vignettes,*  
designed by R. CRUIKSHANK.

We like the ten vignettes a great deal better than the three Cantos. Indeed the best verses we can find in the volume are the following.

" Cadgettify fum  
Sneakery, cheekery, swipe O,  
Ponticky ri rum,  
Ri whack fal de ral de rido."

*See Gabriel's Hymn, Canto iii. page 196.*

*The Romance of the Harem. By Miss PARDOE.*

Miss Pardoe is a very charming and a fast improving writer. We have seen, or fancied, in each of her recent works, a manifest improvement on its immediate predecessor; and we are quite sure that the volumes now before us are much better written than her book of Travels, which has been so popular under the title of "The City of the Sultan."

Mr. Dix, in his enthusiasm for poor Chatterton, sets down Horace Walpole as guilty of the very same falsehood and act of forgery, of which that "lover of expensive baubles" accused the "Wondrous boy," because he, Horace, prefixed to his Castle of Otranto a statement that the story was translated from an old Italian black letter written by a monk. But this was being too severe: Walpole's joke was not meant to deceive, and it never could have deceived any one at all conversant with old Italian stories and literature. We believe that little white fibs of this kind are perfectly excusable and admissible, and that everything told by an author about the origin and history of his work of fiction is to be taken *cum grano*. Therefore we are not angry with Miss Pardoe for saying of these, *her* (and *very English*) stories, that—

"They are genuine tales related by the professional *Massaldjhes*, or Story-tellers

of the East, in the harems of the wealthy Turks during seasons of festivity, and particularly in that of the Ramazan"—

albeit we know that these tales are no more like those which are told by the professional story-tellers of the East than Horace Walpole's romance is like the *Decameron* of Boccaccio, the *Pecorone* of Sir Giovanni Fiorentino, the *Cento Novelle Antiche*, or any other Italian story of the olden time. In the works which we have named may be found several reasons why an English gentleman should not translate them; and as the strolling Massaldjhes are much plainer speakers than the old Italians, the interdict would be stronger in their case. Nor do we think that the most masculine reader would be much pleased with the tales that set the coffee-houses of Constantinople in a roar. In construction, in language, in sentiment, (all the *romance* of the Harem is of Miss Pardoe's introducing,) these pretty tales are wholly different from, and far superior to, the narratives of the Massaldjhes. Of the language she says—

"In order to localise the different tales, I have endeavoured to adopt, to a certain degree, the florid and figurative style of language in which the Orientals so much delight, and so constantly indulge, while I have been careful neither to caricature their habits nor their opinions; but to confine myself as closely as possible to the actions and feelings of every-day Turkish life; and to fling off, if I may so express it, all idea of authorship, to identify myself for the time with the individuals of whom I wrote."

And yet, (as a contemporary has already observed,) in attempting to orientalize her style, she has got rid of much of that gaudiness and inflation of language which was a serious drawback on her book of Travels. Indeed, most of the little stories are written in a style of very graceful simplicity. They are various and exciting in their incidents. "The Seven Doors," "The Arab Steed," and "The Barber of Bassora," are excellent. The prose is inlaid with some very pleasing verse. Here is a specimen.

"Cobah ! Cobah ! where art thou now ?  
We have sought thee in vain on the mountain brow,  
We have looked for thee, love, where the stream runs clear,  
Cobah ! Cobah ! thou art not here—  
The wind sighs its grief through the cypress bough,  
Cobah ! beloved one ! where art thou ?

She is gone ! she is gone ! but where ?  
Go ask the earth's starry flowers—  
Where the sunbeams of yesterday rest, she's there,  
She can never again be ours—  
Life's sweetest and brightest things,  
The joys we have loved and lost,  
Exist in the land where the spirit's wings  
Catch heaven's bright beam the most.

Why did she pass away,  
Before her sweet youth was o'er,  
Like the flower which drinks in the sunbeam to-day,  
And to-morrow exists no more ?  
She loved, till she lived in that light alone  
That her own pure soul had made—  
And she withered, because the cherished one  
Who had been to her both breath and sun,  
Left her to pine and fade—  
Summer days pass—earth's blossoms die—  
Heaven's stars fall from the azure sky—  
Our joys all wither one by one—  
Cobah is gone ! Cobah is gone!"

We almost regret that we cannot find room for one of her shorter  
March 1839.—VOL. XXIV.—NO. XCIV.

stories; but the book will be popular, and our readers will make themselves acquainted with the whole of it.

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*Travels of Minna and Godfrey in many Lands. The Rhine, Nassau, and Baden.*

Some few months ago we travelled through Holland with Minna and Godfrey to our exceeding great delight, and now we have followed them with equal pleasure up the glorious Rhine,

" Whose breast of waters broadly swells  
Between the banks which bear the vine,  
And hills all rich with blossom'd trees,  
And fields which promise corn and wine,  
And scatter'd cities crowning these,  
Whose far white walls along them shine."

We can earnestly recommend this amusing and instructive volume—as we did its predecessor—not only to youthful readers, but also to persons of mature age, who have not time for the reading of large books. The whole series of Travels promises to be an excellent one.

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*The Gift for all Seasons.* Edited by WILLIAM ANDERSON, Esq.,  
Author of *Landscape Lyrics*, &c.

This is a beautiful little volume, with a title which can never be out of date. We have before had occasion to notice with commendation the labours of Mr. Anderson, and have great pleasure in again bearing testimony to his ability. The present elegant little volume contains a collection of papers, many of which are of more than passing value. Some of them we should have been glad to have transferred to our pages, had not the work reached us at too late a period of the month. We can only, therefore, recommend it, as we do most cordially, to the attention of our present-loving and present-making readers. The work is tastefully embellished with plates, and in a beautiful binding.

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*The Student's Manual, designed, by Specific Directions, to aid in forming and strengthening the Intellectual and Moral Character and Habits of the Students.* By JOHN TODD. Reprinted from the Seventh American Edition.

This is one of those valuable works, and we are pleased to say they are not a few, for which we are indebted to our brethren on the other side of the Atlantic. Mr. Todd has here done good service, and produced a work which the world will not soon be likely to lose sight of—a book of original thought and sterling value. He has here afforded helpful aid at a time when it is most needed—when the character is forming, and the youth is rapidly progressing towards the man. We believe that many a young man will have cause to thank the author for his wise directions and salutary cautions, and to all such we cordially recommend this estimable volume.

*Summary of Works that we have received, of which we have no space to make a lengthened notice.*

*Spiers's Old English Poets*; Part I. Spenser.—A very good beginning. We hope there may be love of good poetry and taste enough among the people to carry the publisher successfully through his bold undertaking. He here gives, for one shilling, the first nine Cantos of the Faerie Queene.

*A Letter to the Earl of Durham, on Reform in Parliament, by paying the Elected.* By MARVELL REDIVIVUS. The writer of this pamphlet (a Chartist, but no Marvell) thinks that we should be served much better in the House of Commons, if we paid our members so much per week. We don't think so.

*Dr. Ure's Dictionary of Arts, Manufactures, and Mines.* This, the sixth part, contains some very valuable articles, as "Gunpowder," "Hat Manufacture," "Hosiery," "Iron," "Lace Manufacture," "Lamp," "Lead," with which very heavy but very useful substance it concludes. Four more monthly parts will complete the work.

*A History of British Reptiles.* By THOMAS BELL, F.R.S., F.L.S., Professor of Zoology in King's College, London.—Illustrated by a woodcut of each species, with some of the Varieties, and numerous vignettes. We have received the second part of this publication. It is in all essentials worthy of its predecessor, which we noticed a short time back.

*A plain Letter to the Lord Chancellor on the Infant Custody Bill.* By PEARCE STEVENSON, Esq.—A very important pamphlet, written in defence of the now outraged rights of wives and mothers. We agree in toto with Mr. Stevenson, and admire the generous warmth with which he pleads the cause of the unhappiest of all the victims of legal tyranny. We rejoice to see that his essay has met with a large portion of public attention. We trust that this notice, short as it is, may direct the attention of some readers to the pamphlet.

*The Boy's Country Book.* Edited by WILLIAM HOWITT.—Good—very good. We think that boys will read it with delight.

*The Quarantine Laws: their Abuses and Inconsistencies. A Letter addressed to the Right Hon. Sir John Cam Hobhouse, Bart., M.P., President of the Board of Control, &c. &c. &c.* By ARTHUR T. HOLROYD, Esq.—This is a sensible and well-written pamphlet on an exceedingly important subject. We have had some experience—at times dearly purchased—in this business; and although we are not prepared to assert the non-contagion of the plague, or the uselessness of all quarantine laws, we can very confidently affirm that these laws, wherever they are established, call for instant revision. They are bad enough in England, and, God knows, badly enough administered; but in France, in Spain, in Italy, they are the most distressing, and, in the two latter countries at least, the most useless of regulations—useless on account, in part but not wholly, of the facility with which they are infringed. If lazarettos are necessary, they ought everywhere to be put upon a very different footing from that on which they now stand, and have been standing, to the disgrace of civilised Europe, for ages. The subject is of such vast importance, that it ought to be coolly and scientifically investigated by all governments, and then made a part and portion of international law. The amount of personal suffering, of pecuniary loss, and commercial embarrassment, occasioned throughout the world by the present system, is incalculable. The public ought to feel indebted to Mr. Holroyd for the pains he has taken to give the subject a popular and prominent shape.

*The Rule and Exercises of Holy Living.* By JEREMY TAYLOR, D.D. Bishop of Down and Connor. Fraser and Crawford, Edinburgh.—This

is the first of a series of cheap and elegant reprints of standard works on Divinity, of which we cannot speak too highly. The size is a handsome octavo, and the wonder is how it can possibly be rendered at the price. It is to be followed by others of equal value, and we hail with decided approbation the attempt thus made to place within the reach of all, those gems of our theological literature, which shed such a lustre on the literary annals of our country. Every work is to be complete in itself, so that a collection may be formed of a part or the whole, at the choice of the purchaser.

*The Weather Guide, or an Index to the Barometer.* By W. H. B. WEBSTER, Surgeon, R.N.—Nothing is more puzzling to the uninitiated than the observance of the barometer. Mr. Webster has greatly familiarised the subject by the present "Guide," and furnished such explanations as cannot fail to render the indications of the barometer universally intelligible. At a time when so much has been said, and, as it appears, to little purpose, on the subject of the weather, it is satisfactory to possess a means of judging which it seems scarcely possible can lead to error.

*The English Bijou Almanack.*—This little work is certainly the perfection of miniature books. Its dimensions are indeed fairy-like, and yet it possesses beauties which are not always to be met with in larger works. It has also a still higher value from containing some of the last productions of the lamented L. E. L. We have no doubt that this beautiful little work will meet with an extensive demand.

### LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

- Nugent's Authority of the Roman Catholic Church considered. 12mo. 1s.  
 Secession Justified. By Philalethes. 12mo. 2s. 6d.  
 The Bouquet, or Ladies' Flower Garden. Fcap. 3s.  
 An Outline of Ancient and Modern Rome, in Question and Answer. By a Lady. 18mo. 3s. 6d.  
 Stokes's Doctrine of a Special Providence. Fcap. 2s.  
 Hall's (Rev. John) Explanatory Discourses on the Epistles. 2 vols. 8vo. 21s.  
 Melville's Sermons. Vol. II. Second Edition. 8vo. 10s. 6d.  
 Henshaw's Horæ Succisivæ. Edited by W. Turnbull. 18mo. 3s.  
 Billingham. By the Rev. W. Palin. Fcap. 3s. 6d.  
 Howitt's Hymns and Fireside Verses. Royal 18mo. 6s.  
 Manual of Political Ethics. By Francis Sieber. 8vo. 12s.  
 Bosanquet's New System of Logic. 8vo. 10s. 6d.  
 Brande's Dictionary of Materia Medica and Pharmacy. 8vo. 15s.  
 Byron's Works. 8 vols. 8vo. 4l. 4s.  
 Burr's Private Journal in Europe. 2 vols. 8vo. 28s.  
 Miller's Companion to the Atlas. Second Edition. Fcap. folio, 7s. 6d.  
 Goodacre's Arithmetic. Ninth Edition. 12mo. 4s.  
 The Christian Mother's Text-Book. Royal 32mo. 2s.  
 The Reign of Lockrin. A Poem. Fcap. 10s. 6d.  
 The Disciples in the Storm. By the Rev. Daniel Bagot. 12mo. 2s. 6d.  
 Ellis's Women of England. Second Edition. Crown 8vo. 9s.  
 The Christian's Every Day Book. By the Rev. I. D. Krummacher. 12mo. 4s.  
 Pope's Poetical Works. Edited by the Rev. H. F. Cary. 8vo. 14s.  
 Oliver and Boyd's British Catechism of the British Constitution. 18mo. 9d.  
 Donne's Works. Edited by the Rev. H. Alford. 6 vols. 8vo. 3l. 12s.  
 Donaldson's New Cratylus. 8vo. 17s.  
 Doddridge's Rise and Progress: Essay. By John Foster. 8vo. 1s. 9d.  
 Memoirs of a Field Officer of the Indian Army. 8vo. 12s.  
 Stocker's Juvenal and Perseus. New Edition. 8vo. 14s.  
 Perrin's French Spelling. New Edition. 12mo. 2s.  
 The Youth of Shakspeare. 3 vols. post 8vo. 1l. 11s. 6d.

- A Voice from America to England. 8vo. 12s.  
Laing's Tour in Sweden. 8vo. 12s.  
Progressive Education. By Madame Necker de Saussure. Fcap. 2 vols. 12s.  
The Call upon the Great. Post 8vo. 4s.  
Hardman's Practical Comments. Vol. I. New Edition. 8vo. 12s.  
Recollections of a Country Pastor. Fcap. 3s. 6d.  
Graham's History of Ireland. 12mo. 6s.  
Hare's Sermons. Fourth Edition. 2 vols. 12mo. 16s.  
Gems of Dr. Krummacher. 18mo. 2s.  
Royle's Botany of the Himalayan Mountains. Part X. 4to. 20s.  
Prostitution in London. By Dr. Ryan. 12mo. 10s. 6d.  
Currie's Domestic Homœopathy. 18mo. 4s.  
Skinner's Religion of the Bible. 12mo. 6s.
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**LITERARY NEWS.—WORKS IN PROGRESS.**

Lady Chatterton has nearly completed her new work, *RAMBLES IN THE SOUTH OF IRELAND*. We understand it is to be embellished with drawings and wood engravings, from designs by her Ladyship.

The Hon. Mr. Sayers' new work, *HENRY ACTON AND OTHER TALES*, is now published. We intend to give it early attention.

Mr. Best's new work, *ODIOUS COMPARISONS*, is expected to appear in a few days.

A little work has just been published, entitled *THE ANONYMOUS LETTERS*.

In the press A NEW DRAMA entitled *RICHELIEU*, which is nearly completed.

A little work, entitled *THE SORROWS OF DEAFNESS*, is nearly ready.

*THE AUTHOR'S PRINTING AND PUBLISHING ASSISTANT* will appear in a few days.

*WAKING DREAMS*, with Illustrations, by the author of a series of "Irish Tales," is now ready.

*Florigraphia Britannica*, or Engravings and Descriptions of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of Britain, will be continued in March, 1839.

*Ancient Christianity, and the Doctrines of the Oxford Tracts*. By the author of "Spiritual Despotism."

*The Life and Times of Sir Thomas Gresham*, by J. W. Burton, Esq., from original documents.

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**THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS OF THE COUNTRY.**

We are sorry to hear that some of our larger manufacturers are lessening their hours of labour. We fear, from the statements lately made, this may arise in part from the progress of rival establishments abroad.

The motion made on behalf of the petitioners to be heard at the bar, on the subject of the Repeal of the Corn Laws, has been refused in both Houses.

From America we learn that a tremendous storm had visited, with destructive violence, both New York and Philadelphia.

The appearances of the spring are, we hope, from the various accounts we have received, on the whole favourable.

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## PRICES OF THE PUBLIC FUNDS.

On Tuesday, 25th of February.

## ENGLISH STOCKS.

**Bank Stock, 205 one-half.**—Three per Cent. reduced, 93 five-eighths.—Consols, for Account, 92 three-fourths to seven-eighths.—Three and a Half per Cent., reduced, 101 one-eighth.—Exchequer Bills, 63s. to 64s. prem.—India Bonds, 65s.

## FOREIGN STOCKS.

**Portuguese New Five per Cent.** 35.—Dutch, Two and a Half per Cent. 55 one-eighth.—Dutch, Five per Cent., 103 three-eighths to one-fourth.—Spanish Five per Cents., 19 one-eighth to five-eighths.

**MONEY MARKET REPORT.**—*City, Feb. 26th, 1839.*—The funds have been without material variation all day, the dealers principally occupied in preparing for the settlement to-morrow. Consols remain at 29½ to ½ for money and this account, and at 92½ to 3 for the April account; Bank Stock, 205½ to 6; India Stock, 256½ to 7½; Exchequer Bills advertised were 61s. to 63s., those at 2d. per day, 63s. to 65s.; and India Bonds, 65s. premium.

The depression in Peninsular securities continues. Spanish Actives, with the May coupons, were 18½ to ¾; Portuguese 5 per Cents., 34½ to 5; the 3 per Cents., 21½ to ¾; Brazilian remain 80½ to 1½, the scrip of the new loan, 1½ to 2½ premium; Mexican were 23½ to 4; Colombian, 29 to ½. Some improvement took place in the Dutch and Belgian securities. Dutch 2½ per Cents. advanced to 55½ to ½; the 5 per Cents., to 103½ to ½; Belgian, 100 to ½; Danish were 75½ to 6½.

The Railway shares were without material change. London and Birmingham, 79 to 81; Great Western, 12½ to 13½ premium; North Midland, ½ discount to ½ premium; Southampton, 5½ to 5; Brighton, 4½ to 4 discount. Cocaes mining, 16 to 17 per share. London Joint Stock Bank, 2½ to 3; London and Westminster, 4½ to 5 premium.

## BANKRUPTS.

FROM DEC. 19, TO JAN. 18, 1839, INCLUSIVE.

**Jan. 22.** H. H. Hope, Goswell-street, oil and colourman.—W. Maddams, Theobald's road, Red Lion-square, cabinet maker.—J. W. Bennett, West-place, West-square, Lambeth, lodging-house-keeper.—J. Johnson, Cockermouth, Cumberland, saddler.—F. Schenk and J. Heapy, Brighton, Sussex, watchmakers.—T. Morris, Worcester, builder.—E. Mason, King-ton, Herefordshire, innkeeper.—J. Wood, Manchester, laceman.

**Jan. 25.** W. Edwards, Wentworth-street, Spitalfields, cabinet maker.—F. F. Gibbs, Liverpool, merchant.—T. Wood, Alnwick, Northumberland, ironmonger.

**Jan. 29.** W. Hancock, Glasshouse-yard, Aldersgate-street, bookbinder.—R. Wright, jun., and J. Clark, Liquorpond-street, builders.—W. Sutton, Buntingford, Herefordshire, coal merchant.—S. C. Warner, Walworth-road, Surrey, coal dealer.—L. Long, Tonbridge Wells, victualler.—J. Bow, Frith-street, Soho-square, carpenter.—J. Lamb, Chancery-lane, victualler.—J. Tanner, Bristol, victualler.—J. Day, Coventry, ribbon manufacturer.—F. Little, Manchester, druggist.—T. Wilson, Beverley, Yorkshire, miller.—D. B. Sorley and T. Crewdon, Liverpool, merchants.—R. Cull, Ramegate, upholsterer.—R. Patisson, Liverpool, printer.

**Feb. 1.** S. Smith, Pump-row, Old Street-road, timber-merchant.—T. Green, Abchurch-lane, bill broker.—N. C. Blaie, Calcutta, East Indies, merchant.—J. Shepherd, Leicester, hosier.—G. Haines, Kilsby, Northamptonshire, and Clay-cross, Derbyshire, grocer.—C. Paleyman, Manchester, and Crag in Wildboarclough, Cheshire, calico printer.—J. Daynes, Norwich, manufacturer.—J. Dawkins, Leamington Priors, Warwickshire, builder.

**Feb. 5.** R. S. Firmin and W. King, Conduit-street, Bond-street, button manufacturers.—W. Dale, Cheadle Bulkeley, Cheshire, shopkeeper.—J. Knapman, South Tawton, Devonshire, farmer.—J. Graham, Manchester, linendraper.—J. Sloane and J. Whitty, Liverpool, hatters.—P. T. Smith, Liverpool, hatter.—J. Unsworth, Brindle, Lancashire calico printer.

**Feb. 8.** G. W. Turner, Bermondsey-wall, paper-maker.—T. J. Groggon, Belvedere-road, Lambeth, manufacturer of imperi-hable stone scagli marble works.—J. G. Ourry, Fenchurch-buildings, merchant.—J. Money, Donnington, Berkshire, builder.—T. Cooper, Lewes, coke manufacturer.—J. Fletcher, Haslingden, Lancashire, hardware-dealer.—H. Coward, Bath, draper.—J. Bristow, Poole, ship-broker.

**Feb. 12.** C. Gell, New-road, zinc manufacturer.—H. C. Frost, Oxford-street, colourman.—C. Savill, Romford, Essex, grocer.—B. Parnham, High Holborn, slopseller.—Z. Parkes, Stanhope-street, Clare-market, builder.—G. Holloway, Emsworth, Hampshire, merchant.—J. Goodhall, Newcastle-under-Line, Staffordshire, innkeeper.—F. P. Wingate, East Stonehouse, Devonshire.—A. Robertshaw, Halifax, Yorkshire, surgeon.

**Feb. 15.** T. Blay, Bermondsey-street, Southwark, brushmaker.—T. A. Dulcken, Wigmore-street, Cavendish-square, haberdasher.—B. Parnham, High-street, Shadwell, slopseller.—T. J. Hawkins, West Smithfield, inkeeper.—J. Currie, Orchard-street, Portman-square, tailor.—J. B. Baylis, Rowington, Warwickshire, coal-dealer.—W. Maxey, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, corn-dealer.

## MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL.

Kept at Edmonton. Latitude 51° 37' 32" N. Longitude 3° 51" West of Greenwich.

The mode of keeping these registries is as follows:—At Edmonton the warmth of the day is observed by means of a thermometer exposed to the north in the shade, standing about four feet above the surface of the ground. The extreme cold of the night is ascertained by a horizontal self-registering thermometer in a similar situation. The daily range of the barometer and thermometer is known from observations made at intervals of four hours each, from eight in the morning till the same time in the evening. The weather and the direction of the wind are the result of the most frequent observations. The rain is measured every morning at eight o'clock.

| 1839.  | Range<br>of<br>Ther. | Range<br>of<br>Barom. | Prevailing<br>Winds. | Rain<br>in<br>Inches | Prevailing Weather.   |
|--------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| Jan.   |                      |                       |                      |                      |   |
| 23     | 41-30                | 30,46-30,39           | N.                   |                      | Afternoon clear, otherwise cloudy.  |
| 24     | 43 27                | 30,42-30,32           | N.W.                 |                      | Evening clear, otherwise cloudy.  |
| 25     | 49-37                | 30,05-29,89           | N.W.                 |                      | Cloudy, raining during the evening.   |
| 26     | 39-30                | 30,10-30,04           | N.E.                 |                      | Afternoon cloudy, with snow, otherwise clear.   |
| 27     | 35-27                | 30,21-30,13           | N.E.                 |                      | Cloudy, snow during the night.  |
| 28     | 37-25                | 29,98-29,63           | N.W.                 |                      | Morning clear, otherwise overcast, snowing very fast during the evening. [during the day. |
| 29     | 37 27                | 29,52 29,12           | W.                   |                      | Morning clear, otherwise cloudy, snow and rain  |
| 30     | 31-16, <sup>5</sup>  | 29,11-29,00           | W.                   | ,335                 | Morning clear, otherwise cloudy, snowing frequently during the day.                       |
| 31     | 35-22                | 29,55-29,09           | N.                   |                      | Cloudy, snowing frequently during the day.  |
| Feb. 1 | 37-17                | 29,95 29,88           | N.                   |                      | Afternoon clear, otherwise cloudy; snow fell during the morning.                          |
| 2      | 39-25                | 29,96 29,92           | N.W.                 |                      | Noon clear, otherwise cloudy.   |
| 3      | 43 30                | 29,83-29,73           | S.W.                 |                      | Cloudy, rain during the morning.  |
| 4      | 43-27                | 29,79 29,72           | S.                   | ,305                 | Overcast, rain in the afternoon.  |
| 5      | 43-29                | 30,02-29,96           | S.                   | ,075                 | Cloudy, rain in the afternoon and evening.  |
| 6      | 43-37                | 30,09-30,03           | N.E.                 | ,275                 | Cloudy, rain in the morning and evening.  |
| 7      | 52-40                | 30,20-30,16           | S.W.                 |                      | Cloudy.   |
| 8      | 53-45                | 30,20-30,18           | S.W.                 |                      | Cloudy, rain in the afternoon.  |
| 9      | 52 46                | 30,23-30,20           | S.W.                 |                      | Cloudy, rain in the evening.  |
| 10     | 47-37                | 30,38-30,32           | N.W.                 |                      | Gen. clear, raining very heavily during the morn.   |
| 11     | 45-28                | 30,33-30,28           | S.                   |                      | Cloudy.   |
| 12     | 49 36                | 30,21-30,12           | S.W.                 | ,0125                | Morn. clear, otherwise cloudy, rain in the even.  |
| 13     | 47-30                | 30,36 30,32           | S.W.                 |                      | Generally clear.  |
| 14     | 53-36                | 30,00-29,84           | S.W.                 |                      | Afternoon clear, otherwise cloudy.  |
| 15     | 38 30                | 29,97-29,90           | S.W.                 |                      | Generally clear, except the even. a little rain fell.                                     |
| 16     | 47-38                | 29,80 29,70           | S.W.                 |                      | Morning cloudy, with rain, otherwise clear.   |
| 17     | 47-29                | 29,42-29,38           | S.W.                 |                      | Generally clear, snow and hail in the afternoon.  |
| 18     | 39-28                | 29,44-29,42           | N.                   |                      | Cloudy, snow in the morn., and rain in the even.  |
| 19     | 40-22                | 29,55 29,47           | N.W.                 |                      | Afternoon clear, otherwise cloudy.  |
| 20     | 37-34                | 29,80-29,43           | N.E.                 | ,3                   | Cloudy, rain at times during the morning.   |
| 21     | 39-32                | 30,15-30,09           | E.                   |                      | Generally cloudy.   |
| 22     | 49-31                | 29,79-29,56           | S.W.                 |                      | Cloudy, snow dur. the morn. and rain in the even.   |

Edmonton.

CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.

## NEW PATENTS.

S. Clegg, of Sidmouth Street, Gray's Inn Road, Engineer, for a new improvement in valves, and the combination of them with machinery. January 3rd, 6 months.

H. R. Abraham, of Keppel Street, Russell Square, Architect, for improvements in apparatus applicable to steam-boilers. January 3rd, 6 months.

T. N. Raper, of Greek Street, Soho, Gentleman, for improvements in rendering fabrics and leather waterproof. January 3rd, 6 months.

A. Marrall, of Studley, Warwick, Needle Maker, for certain improvements in the making or manufacturing needles, and in the machinery or apparatus employed therein. January 3rd, 6 months.

L. M. B. Du Maurier, of Lombard Street, Gentleman, for improvements in the construction of springs for carriages. January 3rd, 6 months.

M. Berry, of Chancery Lane, Patent Agent, for certain improvements in rotary engines to be worked by steam or other fluids. January 4th, 6 months.

H. Burnett, of Wharton Street, Bagnigge Wells Road, Gentleman, for new and improved machinery for sawing, planing, grooving, and otherwise preparing or working wood for certain purposes. January 8th, 6 months.

J. C. Daniell, of Limphey Stoke, Wiltshire, for an improved method of weaving woollen cloths and cloths made of wool together with other materials. January 9th, 6 months.

M. Poole, of Lincoln's Inn, Gentleman, for certain improvements in clogs. January 11th, 6 months.

J. Howarth, of Aldermanbury, Manufacturer, for certain improvements in machinery for spinning, roving, doubling, and twisting cotton, and other fibrous materials. January 11th, 6 months.

J. Ashton, of Manchester, Silk Manufacturer, for an improvement or improvements in manufacturing plush of silk, or other fibrous materials. January 11th, 6 months.

J. S. Worth, of Manchester, Merchant, for an improved machine for preparing and cleaning wool for manufacturing purposes. January 11th, 6 months.

W. Newton, of Chancery Lane, Civil Engineer, for certain improvements in machines for drilling land, or sowing grain and seeds of different descriptions. January 11th, 6 months.

F. Brewin, of the Old Kent Road, Tanner, for certain improvements in using materials employed in tanning, and preparing the same for other useful purposes. January 11th, 6 months.

R. Logan, of Trafalgar Square, Esquire, for a new cloth or cloths constructed from cocoa-nut fibre, and for certain improvements in preparing such fibrous material for the same and other purposes. January 11th, 6 months.

W. Ponsford, of Wangye House, Essex, Gentleman, for an improvement in the manufacture of hats, and an improved description of felt suitable for hats and various other useful purposes, and improvements in preparing the material or materials chiefly used in the manufacture of such felt. January 12th, 6 months.

E. Marten, of the village of Bransted, Kent, Plumber, for an improved method of laying covering, composed of lead, or other metal, on the roof of houses, or other buildings, with drains, whereby the part of the water falling on such roof, which would penetrate, is carried off, and rolls and seams are rendered unnecessary. January 12th, 6 months.

J. Burch, of Bankside, Blackfriars, Calico Printer, for certain improvements in printing cotton, woollen, paper, and other fabrics and materials. January 15th, 6 months.

W. Witham, of Huddersfield, Machinist, for improvements in engines, to be worked by steam, water, or other fluids. January 15th, 6 months.

H. F. Bacon, of Fen Drayton, Cambridge, Clerk, for an improvement or improvements in apparatus for regulating the flow or supply of gas through pipes, to gas-burners, with a view to uniformity of supply. January 17th, 6 months.

W. H. Heginbotham, of Stockport, Gentleman, for certain improvements in machinery, or apparatus for propelling boats, or other vessels, to be employed either for marine or inland navigation, and to be worked by steam or other power. January 17th, 6 months.

W. Newton, of Chancery Lane, Civil Engineer, for certain improvements in engines, to be worked by air or other gases. January 17th, 6 months.

O. W. Barratt, of Birmingham, Metal Gilder, for certain improvements in the process of decomposing muriate of soda, for the manufacture of mineral alkali, and other valuable products. January 19th, 6 months.

J. Garnett, of Haslingden, Lancaster, Dyer, for certain improvements in machinery or apparatus for carding cotton, flax, wool, or any other fibrous substances. January 12th, 6 months.

R. Dugdale, of Manchester, Engineer, for a method or methods of increasing the security, tenacity, and strength of beams, axles, rods, and other articles made of iron and steel. January 19th, 6 months.

C. Bedells, of Leicester, Manufacturer, for an improvement in gloves, stockings, and other articles of hosiery. January 21st, 2 months.

J. C. Haddan, of Bazing Place, Waterloo Road, Surrey, Civil Engineer, for improvements in machinery or apparatus for propelling boats by steam or other power. January 22nd, 6 months.

G. Stevens, of Stowmarket, Suffolk, Brewer, for certain improvements in stoves. January 22nd, 6 months.

J. H. Ainsworth, of Halliwell, Lancashire, Bleacher, for certain improvements in machinery or apparatus for stretching, drying, and finishing woven fabrics. January 24th, 6 months.

T. Dowling, of Chapel Place, Oxford Street, Gentleman, for improvements in preparing metals for the prevention of oxidation. January 24th, 6 months.

R. Copeland, of Courland, Wandsworth Road, Surrey, Esquire, for improvements in water-wheels. January 24th, 6 months.

P. J. I. Verdure, of the Sabloniere Hotel, Leicester Square, Gentleman, for improvements in the manufacture of starch, and in machinery for preparing and employing of the refuse matters obtained in such manufacture. January 25th, 6 months.

J. H. Kyan, of Cheltenham, Esquire, and W. Hyatt, of Lower Fountain Place, City Road, Engineer, for improvements in steam-engines. January 29th, 6 months.

J. Hillard, of Bread Street, Cheapside, Merchant, for certain improvements in machinery and apparatus for making or manufacturing screws. January 29th, 6 months.

W. Lukyn, of Lower Cowley House, Oxford, Dentist, for certain improvements in applying and attaching artificial and natural teeth. January 29th, 6 months.

## MISCELLANEOUS PHILOSOPHICAL, &c.

**PHOTOGENIC DRAWING.**—The following letter on this new and interesting subject was recently read at the Royal Society.

“ Dear Sir,—In compliance with the request of several scientific friends, who have been much interested with the account of the art of Photogenic Drawing, which I had the honour of presenting to the Royal Society on the 31st of last month, I will endeavour to explain, as briefly as I can, but at the same time without omitting anything essential, the methods which I have hitherto employed for the production of these pictures.

“ If this explanation, on my part, should have the effect of drawing new inquirers into the field, and if any new discoveries of importance should be the result, as I anticipate, and especially if any means should be discovered by which the sensitiveness of the paper can be materially increased, I shall be the first to rejoice at the success; and, in the mean while, I shall endeavour, as far as I may be able, to prosecute the inquiry myself.

“ The subject naturally divides itself into two heads; viz. the preparation of the paper, and the means of fixing the design.

“ (1.) *Preparation of the paper.*—In order to make what may be called ordinary photogenic paper, I select, in the first place, paper of a good firm quality and smooth surface. I do not know that any answers better than superfine writing paper. I dip it into a weak solution of common salt, and wipe it dry, by which the salt is uniformly distributed throughout its substance. I then spread a solution of nitrate of silver on one surface only, and dry it at the fire. The solution should not be saturated, but six or eight times diluted with water. When dry, the paper is fit for use.

“ I have found by experiment that there is a certain proportion between the quantity of salt and that of the solution of silver, which answers best, and gives the maximum effect. If the strength of the salt is augmented beyond this point, the effect diminishes, and, in certain cases, becomes exceedingly small.

“ This paper, if properly made, is very useful for all ordinary photogenic purposes. For example, nothing can be more perfect than the images it gives of leaves and flowers, especially with a summer sun: the light passing through the leaves delineates every ramification of their nerves.

“ Now, suppose we take a sheet of paper thus prepared, and wash it with a

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*saturated solution of salt, and then dry it ; we shall find (especially if the paper has been kept some weeks before the trial is made) that its sensibility is greatly diminished, and, in some cases, seems quite extinct. But if it is again washed with a liberal quantity of the solution of silver, it becomes again sensible to light, and even more so than it was at first. In this way, by alternately washing the paper with salt and silver, and drying it between times, I have succeeded in increasing its sensibility to the degree that is requisite for receiving the images of the camera obscura.*

" In conducting this operation, it will be found that the results are sometimes more and sometimes less satisfactory in consequence of small and accidental variations in the proportions employed. It happens sometimes that the chloride of silver is disposed to darken of itself, without any exposure to light ; this shows that the attempt to give it sensibility has been carried too far. The object is, to approach to this condition as near as possible without reaching it ; so that the substance may be in a state ready to yield to the slightest extraneous force, such as the feeble impact of the violet rays when much attenuated. Having therefore prepared a number of sheets of paper with chemical proportions slightly different from one another, let a piece be cut from each, and having been duly marked or numbered, let them be placed side by side in a very weak diffused light for about a quarter of an hour. Then, if any one of them, as frequently happens, exhibits a marked advantage over its competitors, I select the paper which bears the corresponding number to be placed in the camera obscura.

" (2.) *Method of fixing the images.*—After having tried ammonia, and several other re-agents, with very imperfect success, the first thing which gave me a successful result was the *iodide of potassium*, much diluted with water. If a photogenic picture is washed over with this liquid, an *iodide of silver* is formed, which is absolutely unalterable by sunshine. This process requires precaution, for if the solution is too strong, it attacks the dark parts of the picture. It is requisite, therefore, to find by trial the proper proportions. The fixation of the pictures in this way, with proper management, is very beautiful and lasting. The specimen of lace which I exhibited to the Society, and which was made five years ago, was preserved in this manner.

" But my usual method of fixing is different from this, and somewhat simpler, or at least requiring less nicety. It consists in immersing the picture in a *strong* solution of common salt, and then wiping off the superfluous moisture, and drying it. It is sufficiently singular that the same substance which is so useful in giving sensibility to the paper, should also be capable, under other circumstances, of destroying it ; but such is, nevertheless, the fact.

" Now, if the picture which has been thus washed and dried is placed in the sun, the white parts colour themselves of a pale lilac tint, after which they become insensible. Numerous experiments have shown to me that the depth of this lilac tint varies according to the quantity of salt used, relatively to the quantity of silver ; by properly adjusting these, the images may, if desired, be retained of an absolute whiteness. I find I have omitted to mention that those preserved by *iodine* are always of a very pale primrose yellow, which has the extraordinary and very remarkable property of turning to a full gaudy yellow whenever it is exposed to the heat of a fire, and recovering its former colour again when it is cold.—I am, &c.

" H. FOX TALBOT.

" 44, Queen Anne Street, Feb. 20th, 1839."

**WATERSPOUTS.**—In the latter end of October, a waterspout passed through Sir Robert Stopford's squadron, a few days after leaving Vourla Bay for Malta, its progressive motion being with the wind, and its rotatory motion contrary to the hands of a watch, as a near view of it enabled me satisfactorily to ascertain. The only other waterspout which passed sufficiently near to enable one to see the direction of its gyrations was a West India one in 1814, both of whose motions corresponded with those of the one of last October. Coming down close upon the vessel's beam, an attempt was made, by putting her head different ways, to avoid collision, but without avail ; the meteor seeming to follow the ship as if attracted by her, and finally passed over in a line with the mainmast. From its size being small, no damage was done, the sails being only sharply shaken, and all the light articles whirled about the deck, as if by a land whirlwind.

**KAOLIN.**—MM. Alexandre Brongniart and Malaguti have been, and are still, making a strict search into the nature of the Kaolin, or earth which is employed in the manufacture of porcelain. The facts to which they already have arrived are, that this earth is a chemical decomposition of feldspath, the gradual transition of which has been observed by them; also, that it is always found in the close neighbourhood of ferruginous rocks, in irregular interrupted beds.

**MEGATHERIUM.**—In a memoir presented to the French Academy of Sciences, M. de Blainville states, that neither the head, the shoulder, the limbs, the feet nor the dentition of the Megatherium, in any manner resembles those of the sloth, to which tribe the late Baron Cuvier referred this gigantic animal. M. de Blainville places it among the armadilloes, where he conceives that it ought to form a peculiar division, because it *probably* had four toes in front, and five behind; and the teeth are not only tetragonal, contrary to those of the armadillo tribe, but there are only four in each jaw, which is also an anomaly.

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## HISTORICAL REGISTER.

**HOUSE OF LORDS.**—Feb. 5.—The Queen proceeded in state this day to open the Session of Parliament in person. Her Majesty entered the House about half-past two o'clock. The Commons having been summoned to attend at the bar, her Majesty, on their appearance, delivered the following Speech.

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,—I rejoice to meet you again in Parliament. I am particularly desirous of recurring to your advice and assistance at a period when many matters of great importance demand your serious and deliberate attention.

“ I continue to receive from Foreign Powers gratifying assurances of their desire to maintain with me the most friendly relations.

“ I have concluded with the Emperor of Austria a Treaty of Commerce, which I trust will extend and improve the intercourse between my subjects and those of the Emperor.

“ I have also concluded a Treaty of the same kind with the Sultan, calculated to place the commercial relations between my dominions and the Turkish empire upon a better and more secure footing.

“ I have directed copies of these Treaties to be laid before you.

“ I have been engaged, in concert with Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, in negotiations with a view to a final settlement of the differences between Holland and Belgium.

“ A definitive treaty of peace, founded upon anterior arrangements, which have been acceded to by both parties, has in consequence been proposed to the Dutch and Belgian Governments. I have the satisfaction to inform you that the Dutch Government has already signified to the Conference its acceptance of the Treaty, and I trust that a similar announcement from the Belgian Government will put an end to that disquietude which the present unsettled state of these affairs has necessarily produced.

“ The unanimity of the Five Allied Powers affords satisfactory security for the preservation of peace.

“ I lament the continuance of the civil war in Spain, which engages my anxious and undiminished attention.

“ Differences which have arisen have occasioned the retirement of my Minister from the Court of Teheran. I indulge, however, in the hope of learning that a satisfactory adjustment of these differences will allow of the re-establishment of my relations with Persia upon their former footing of friendship.

“ Events connected with the same differences have induced the Governor-General to take measures for protecting British interests in that quarter of the world, and to enter into engagements, the fulfilment of which may render military operations necessary. For this purpose such preparations have been made as may be sufficient

to resist aggression from any quarter, and to maintain the integrity of my Eastern dominion.

"The reform and amendment of the Municipal Corporations of Ireland are essential to the interests of that part of my dominions.

"It is also urgent that you should apply yourselves to the prosecution and completion of those measures which have been recommended by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of England for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the Established Church, and of confirming its hold upon the affections and respect of my people.

"The better enforcement of the law and the more speedy administration of justice are of the first importance to the welfare of the community, and I feel assured that you will be anxious to devote yourselves to the examination of the measures which will be submitted to you for the purpose of attaining these beneficial results.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—I have directed the annual estimates to be prepared and laid before you.

"Adhering to the principles of economy, which it is my desire to enforce in every department of the State, I feel it my duty to recommend that adequate provision be made for the public service. I fully rely on your loyalty and patriotism to maintain the efficiency of those establishments which are essential to the strength and security of the country.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,—It is with great satisfaction that I am enabled to inform you that throughout the whole of my West Indian possessions the period fixed by law for the final and complete emancipation of the negroes has been anticipated by acts of Colonial Legislatures; and that the transition from the temporary system of apprenticeship to entire freedom has taken place without any disturbance of public order and tranquillity. Any measures which may be necessary in order to give full effect to this great and beneficial change will, I have no doubt, receive your careful attention.

"I have to acquaint you, with deep concern, that the province of Lower Canada has again been disturbed by insurrection, and that hostile incursions have been made into Upper Canada by certain lawless inhabitants of the United States of North America. These violations of the public peace have been promptly suppressed by the valour of my forces and the loyalty of my Canadian subjects. The President of the United States has called upon the citizens of the Union to abstain from proceedings so incompatible with the friendly relations which subsist between Great Britain and the United States.

"I have directed full information upon all these matters to be laid before you, and I recommend the present state of the Provinces to your serious consideration. I rely upon you to support my firm determination to maintain the authority of my Crown, and I trust that your wisdom will adopt such measures as will secure to those parts of my empire the benefit of internal tranquillity, and the full advantages of their own great natural resources.

"I have observed with pain the persevering efforts which have been made in some parts of the country to excite my subjects to disobedience and resistance to the law, and to recommend dangerous and illegal practices. For the counteraction of all such designs, I depend upon the efficacy of the law, which it will be my duty to enforce—upon the good sense and right disposition of my people—upon their attachment to the principles of justice, and their abhorrence of violence and disorder.

"I confidently commit all these great interests to your wisdom, and I implore Almighty God to assist and prosper your counsels."

As soon as the Speech was concluded the Queen left the House, and their Lordships adjourned till five o'clock.

At five o'clock the House resumed, soon after which hour, Viscount Melbourne moved "That her Majesty's most gracious Speech be taken into consideration."—The Earl of Lovelace moved an humble address in answer to her Majesty's most gracious Speech. His lordship proceeded to consider the various topics suggested by the Speech, and concluded by moving the Address.—Lord Vernon seconded the Address.—The Earl of Hardwicke gave notice that he should call the attention of the House, on Tuesday next, to the State of the British navy. The Duke of Wellington, Lord Melbourne, Lord Brougham, &c. addressed the House, and the Address was carried without opposition.—The Earl of Shaftesbury was appointed chairman of committees for the ensuing session, and their Lordships adjourned to Thursday.

Feb. 7.—Their Lordships met at one o'clock, and proceeded to Buckingham Palace with the Address.

Feb. 8.—The Lord Chancellor read the Queen's answer to their Lordships' Address in reply to the Royal Speech, which was as follows:—

" My lords, I thank your Lordships for your loyal and dutiful Address. Relying entirely on your wisdom and patriotism, I can have no greater satisfaction than finding myself supported by your agreement and concurrence."

Lord Glenelg announced his having that morning tendered his resignation to her Majesty, who had been graciously pleased to accept it. His lordship explained his resolution to have been adopted in consequence of a communication made to him by the Cabinet on Tuesday, with respect to a new distribution of office. To the proposed arrangement he could not accede, and therefore resigned.—Lord Brougham brought in a Bill to repeal such parts of the Beer Bills of 1832, 33, and 34, as allowed of beer being sold and drunk on the premises. Their Lordships then adjourned till Monday.

Feb. 11.—Lord Melbourne laid on the table the papers relative to Canada, including several despatches, and Lord Durham's report.—Lord Wharncliffe hoped that their Lordships would have some explanation as to how that report came out and was published before it was laid on the table of that House. It appeared to him that a more improper proceeding had seldom taken place, or one more likely to produce public mischief.—Lord Durham observed, that so far as the publication was concerned, he never expressed any surprise at it, but simply his regret that a portion of the report only, and that the conclusion, had been published. His lordship trusted that they would enter on the subject of the North American colonies with calmness and deliberation.—Lord Londonderry withdrew the motion of which he had given notice relative to the proceedings at the military festival given on the occasion of Lord Durham's departure for Quebec.—Adjourned.

Feb. 12.—Nothing of importance.

Feb. 14.—Lord Lansdowne stated, in answer to a question from Lord Brougham, that the papers relative to education which had been laid before the House of Commons by Lord John Russell, would be laid before the House of Lords also.—The Marquis of Salisbury gave notice, that after the Easter recess he would move for a select committee on the turnpike trusts in England and Wales.

Feb 15.—The Duke of Wellington having moved for the production of the correspondence between the Secretary of State and Sir Francis Head, and for the despatches of Sir John Colborne on the subjects of the establishment of rectories in Upper Canada, Lord Melbourne said he thought the noble duke, if he had seen the correspondence referred to, would agree with him that there would be some inconvenience to the public service in producing it. The noble Duke afterwards stated that he would be satisfied with " copies or extracts" of the correspondence, which was agreed to.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS.**—FEB. 5.—The House met soon after one o'clock. At two o'clock it was summoned to the House of Peers to hear the session opened by a Speech from Her Majesty. On the return of the Speaker, the House was adjourned to a quarter to four o'clock.—Amongst the notices for motions were several on the part of members of the government, on the prospective measures noticed in the Royal Speech. Notices were also given by Lord Mahon that on the 12th inst. he would move a resolution to the effect, that in the trial of controverted elections the objects of justice, uniformity, and despatch would be best attained by a tribunal not consisting of Members of Parliament; and if that resolution should be carried, he would on a subsequent day move for leave to bring in a bill to carry it into effect; by Mr. Villiers, that he should at an early opportunity move, " that evidence be received at the bar of the House, with the view of removing all restrictions on the importation of foreign grain; by Mr. Serjeant Talford, that he should on this day week move for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the law of copyright; by Sir E. Sugden, that this day week he would move for leave to bring in a Bill for the better protection of purchasers of property against Crown claims and Commissioners of Bankrupts; and by Sir T. Fremantle, that he would on the 14th of February move for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the law relating to controverted elections.—The Address was moved by Mr. Buller, and seconded by Mr. Wood. Each of these gentlemen entered at length into the question of the Corn Laws. The first more especially pressed on the House the necessity of Irish Municipal Reform as the only measure wanting to perfect the tranquillity of that country; and the second went through a variety of arithmetical details tending to show the improvement manifested in trade and commerce during the past year compared with the four years

preceding it.—An amendment was then proposed by Mr. Duncombe, to the following effect :—“ That the amendment in the representation of the people effected in 1832 had disappointed the people ; that the Reform Act was not and could not be a final measure, and that it was the duty of that House to take immediate steps towards a further improvement in the representative system.”—The Speaker then asked whether any other amendment was to be proposed, when, no reply being made, he put the question, and the debate proceeded on that of Mr. Duncombe. The House divided on Mr. Duncombe’s amendment, when there appeared for it, 86; against it, 426.

Feb. 6.—Mr. Wynn called the attention of the House to the recent acceptance and the more recent resignation of office by Mr. D. W. Harvey. Lord J. Russell promised to lay the papers connected with the subject on the table, and to furnish all the information in his power. Mr. E. Buller, accompanied by Mr. G. Wood, then brought up the report on the Address to the Queen’s Speech, which was agreed to.

Feb. 7.—The House met at half-past one, for the purpose of going up with the Address. At a quarter to four the House again met, when the Speaker read the following most gracious answer :—“ I thank you for your loyal and dutiful address. I receive with satisfaction the assurances of your support in maintaining the authority of my crown over my Canadian provinces. I rely with confidence on your zealous assistance in upholding the observance of the laws, and on your careful consideration of the weighty matters on which you are engaged.”

Feb. 8.—Mr. Leader expressed his surprise at the appearance of Lord Durham’s report in the “Times” newspaper, before it had been presented to the House.—Lord John Russell was equally astonished, as the report had only been submitted to her Majesty on Monday last.—The noble lord subsequently said, in answer to Mr. T. Duncombe, that it was the intention of government to bring in a Bill to amend the Poor Law Act.—Mr. Christopher gave notice that when Mr. Villiers should bring on his motion on the subject of the Corn Laws, he would move that the House be called over.—Lord John Russell, after some former resolutions of the House on the subject of petitions had been read at the suggestion of the Speaker, moved that the House do adhere to the existing practice. For the motion of Lord J. Russell, 183; against it, 43; majority, 140.—Several bills were then brought in ;—one by the Attorney-General for the better registration of electors ; one by Mr. Hawes to substitute an affirmation for an oath in cases where persons might allege a conscientious scruple against taking oaths ; one by Mr. Barneby to amend the laws relating to highways in England and Wales ; by Lord J. Russell, to provide for the safe custody of registries of deaths and burials ; and Mr. Gillon moved for certain returns relating to the soap duties.—Adjourned till Monday.

Feb. 11.—The report of Supply was brought up and agreed to.—Lord John Russell laid on the table Lord Durham’s report on the Canadas, and stated that the course the government intended to pursue was to introduce a measure respecting Canada before Easter, and to take the second reading of it immediately after the recess. His lordship then obtained leave to bring in Bills for the better ordering of prisons, and for making alterations in the jurisdictions of county courts and petty sessions.—On the motion of Mr. V. Smith, the select committee on Church Leases was re-appointed.—Sir R. Peel could not allow the motion for its renewal to pass without stating that he entirely dissented from the principle upon which the committee was originally appointed, and that to any attempt to divert any expected surplus from purposes purely ecclesiastical he should give every opposition in his power.—Mr. G. W. Wood, in rising to move for some corn returns, complained that Sir R. Peel should have proved on a preceding night that the statements which he (Mr. Wood) made on the commerce of the country supported views exactly the reverse of those which he brought them forward to establish : it was an unfair proceeding. After again entering into a variety of statistical data, the hon. gentleman concluded by moving for a “ return of the prices of wheat, as inserted in the Royal Gazette, for every week in the year 1838 ; and a similar return for each of the four preceding years ; the whole arranged in corresponding columns.” The question having been put from the chair, Sir R. Peel said that he had not the slightest objection to the course adopted by the hon. gentleman who had just addressed the House. He had no objection to the production of the returns which he had moved for, and he must say that nothing could be more natural than for the hon. gentleman to attempt—although the attempt must be perfectly useless—to remove the impression which was made, not on his mind alone, but he would venture to say on the mind of every person

who had heard, and of every person who had read, the important statement which, on the first night of the Session, the hon. gentleman had made to the House. He could imagine that the hon. gentleman would not be able to pass the north-west corner of Palace-yard, on his way to or from the House, without hearing disagreeable questions from certain persons assembling in that neighbourhood, which, after the statement he had made on a former night, he would have some difficulty in answering satisfactorily ; and he was in no degree, therefore, surprised that the hon. gentleman should attempt, if he could, to reinstate himself in the good opinion of those whose interests he represented, and of those by whom he had been elected to the office of President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. The right honourable baronet pursued in the same strain of irony, binding down Mr. Wood to the admissions which he had made, and wound up his speech by reiterating that the conclusion which he (Sir R. Peel) had drawn from the statement made by the President of the Chamber of Commerce was the natural argument from the premises it contained, and that statement had left on his mind an impression that the hon. gentleman had done more to assist the existing system than all that had been done by its open and avowed supporters.—Mr. Wood's motion for returns of the price of corn for the last four years, was agreed to.—Lord Palmerston laid on the table papers relative to the treaty of commerce between this country and Austria.—Mr. Fox Maule obtained leave to bring in a Bill to extend the application of the Metropolitan Police Act. The hon. member explained the principal object of the measure to be the extension of the regular police to the City of London ; and the conversation that ensued was nothing less than a continued series of testimonies from all sides of the House in favour of the admirable working of the existing system, for which the capital is so deeply indebted to Sir Robert Peel.—The House then adjourned.

Feb. 12.—Lord John Russell availed himself of the presentation of some papers to explain his views on the subject of general education. He conceived that there was a great deficiency both in the quantity and quality of education. Looking to the different schemes which had been propounded, he could not coincide with any of them. Government deemed it unadvisable to adopt either the exclusive principle desired by the church, or the open principle advocated by the British and Foreign School Society. He had therefore determined to establish a Central Board for considering and arranging the subject ; which Board was to consist of five Privy Councillors, with the President of the Council at their head. If, as in a former year, 20,000*l.* should be voted by Parliament for education, or, as he should prefer it, 30,000*l.*, the Board would have to settle the distribution of that grant. The first and most important duty they would be called on to discharge would be the establishment of a normal school—a school to educate masters for other schools. This might be done for 400*l.* or 500*l.* a year. He thought, too, that a part of the money should be allotted to local schools already in existence. Moreover, he should like to see infant schools established, for children aged from three to seven ; and at that early time of life he apprehended that the children of parents of every creed might be taught together, without danger that any of them would receive religious impressions which would influence their maturer judgments.—Sir R. Inglis was afraid he could never praise his noble friend for anything he did in his public capacity, but he felt much satisfaction that the noble lord proposed to do so little mischief on this occasion. He could not praise what his noble friend did, but what he left undone. For, in the first place, the noble lord had reprobated in the strongest terms the unnational and unprincipled system of education advocated by those who admired the foreign schemes of instruction ; and, in the second place, he had abandoned formally what was called the joint and comprehensive system of education, as inapplicable to England.—Sir R. Peel insisted that it was of great importance that before the House was called upon to vote a grant of money, they should have distinct information as to the principles by which this Board was to be guided, because, if they made the vote merely on the understanding that year after year the Board was to decide what principles should govern them, and how far it should be governed by the principles of the Church of England, they would be giving the widest possible discretion to that Board. The proper time for discussion would no doubt be when the vote for the grant of money was proposed, and then it would be perfectly open for them, if they thought the discretion given to the Board too wide, to take that course which he for one should take—namely, exercise the right and power to object to the grant altogether. He likewise wished to understand from the noble lord, whether this proposed Board of Privy Councillors (her Majesty's ministers) was to discharge

the functions hitherto performed by the Treasury with respect to the approbation of the funds voted by parliament. The principle of those grants had been to encourage local exertions for the purposes of education. He hoped the noble lord did not mean to depart from that principle, and if he adhered to it, he (Sir Robert Peel) begged also to ask whether the Treasury was to have the distribution of that portion of the funds, or was the new Board, over which the President of the Council was to preside, to discharge that duty?—To the first of these questions Lord John answered in the affirmative; the latter involved a point which must be considered.—On the motion of Sir M. Wood, a Committee was appointed to consider the various reports that had been presented to the House in 1836, 1837, and 1838, on the improvement of the metropolis, and any other plans for the same object that the committee might think expedient.—Leave was given to Sir Edward Sugden to bring in a bill for the better protection of purchasers against judgments, crown debts, and flats in bankruptcy.—Mr. Brotherton having brought forward his annual motion against entering on new business after midnight, the House divided—for the motion, 19; against it, 26.

Feb. 13.—No house.

Feb. 14.—Mr. O'Connell gave notice, that on the 28th inst. he would move for leave to bring in a bill to assimilate the franchise of England, Ireland, and Scotland, and to render it more extensive; also a Bill to secure the liberty of the press, and to check vexatious actions for libel. Mr. O'Connell also gave notice, that when Lord Duncannon moved for an inquiry into the state of Maynooth College, he would move that the inquiry be extended to Trinity College, Dublin.—Lord Morpeth obtained leave to bring in a Bill for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in Ireland.

Feb. 15.—Mr. C. W. Wynn moved a new writ for the borough of Southwark in the room of Mr. Daniel Whittle Harvey, who had since his election accepted the appointment of Registrar of Metropolitan Hackney Carriages.—Mr. Harvey said, that for his own part, he would at any time second any motion for sending any member to account to his constituents. He himself, no doubt, was a peculiarly fit person to be so sent back, because he had made a very alarming precedent in labouring gratuitously. Mr. Wynn, he thought, might have argued the question better than on the narrow ground of precedents—might have expatiated on the great constitutional danger of leaving in that House any member who either received, or had the expectation of receiving, any profit from Government. On a question like the present, however, the construction should be held strictly against his opponents, because they sought to affect him with consequences in the nature of penalty; and his was an office not held by patent or otherwise from the Crown, but held under an appointment signed by the Secretary of State. His own opinion was, that any member accepting any office whatever ought to vacate his seat, but that no office of any description ought to incapacitate him from being re-elected. The Attorney-General then proposed a select committee to search precedents and report to the House; to which Mr. Wynn acceded.—The Registration of Electors Bill, and the Register of Births and Deaths Bill, were severally read a second time, and ordered for committal.—The Bill introduced by Mr. Hawes, for allowing affirmations in place of oaths by all persons affecting to have scruples on the subject, was read a second time, and committed for Friday next.—The Poor Relief (Ireland) Amendment Bill was also read a second time.—On the Lord Advocate's motion for going into a committee on the Judges' (Scotland) Salaries Bill, Mr. Gillon moved, as an amendment, that the House should go into committee on that day six months.—For the Lord Advocate's motion, 56; for the amendment, 27.—In the committee the Lord Advocate proposed two resolutions—one, that judges above seventy years of age, who should have served more than fifteen years, should be allowed to retire on their full salaries; and the other, that the salaries of the judges of the Court of Session should be increased. The first was agreed to without opposition, and on the second the committee divided—for the resolution, 67; against it, 20.—Lord John Russell brought in a Bill to carry into effect, with some modification, the fourth report of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, which was read a first time.